U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Homeland Security

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

July 10, 2019

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: foia@americanoversight.org

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Re: **2017-HQFO-01146**

Dear Mr. Evers,

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated July 31, 2017, and received by this office on August 1, 2017. You are seeking a copy of all emails containing the term "solar panel" or "solar panels," with the search being limited to the immediate Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Deputy Secretary.

A search of DHS's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for documents responsive to your request produced a total of 396 pages. Of those pages, I have determined that 307 pages of the records are releasable in their entirety, 37 pages are partially releasable, and 52 pages are withheld in their entirety pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5), (b)(6), and (b)(7)(E), FOIA Exemptions 5, 6, and b7(E).

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those inter- or intra-agency documents that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context. The three most frequently invoked privileges are the deliberative process privilege, the attorney work-product privilege, and the attorney-client privilege. After carefully reviewing the responsive documents, I determined that portions of the responsive documents qualify for protection under the:

- **Deliberative Process Privilege**
  The deliberative process privilege protects the integrity of the deliberative or decision-making processes within the agency by exempting from mandatory disclosure opinions, conclusions, and recommendations included within inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters. The release of this internal information would discourage the expression of candid opinions and inhibit the free and frank exchange of information among agency personnel.

FOIA Exemption 6 exempts from disclosure personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a

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balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test.

Exemption 7(E) protects records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which would disclose techniques and/or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law.

You have a right to appeal the above withholding determination. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane, SW, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

Additionally, you have a right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Provisions of FOIA allow DHS to charge for processing fees, up to $25, unless you seek a waiver of fees. In this instance, because the cost is below the $25 minimum, there is no charge.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact our office with your request and refer to **2017-HQFO-01146**. You may send an e-mail to foia@hq.dhs.gov, call 202-343-1743 or toll free 1-866-431-0486, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison in the same manner.

Sincerely,

James V.M. Holzer, I

James Holzer
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer

Enclosure(s): Responsive Records (396 pages)

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From:	Taylor, Miles (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Nielsen, Kirstjen (b)(6) (b)(6) "Neumann, Elizabeth (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, April 11, 2017
Date:	2017/04/11 09:28:53
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Already on it! M

From: Nielsen, Kirstjen
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 9:26 AM
To: Taylor, Miles (b)(6) Neumann, Elizabeth (b)(6)
Subject: RE: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Miles
(b)(5)

Tahnks!

From: Taylor, Miles
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 9:22 AM
To: Nielsen, Kirstjen (b)(6) Neumann, Elizabeth
(b)(6)
Subject: FW: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, April 11, 2017

FYI. We knew this GAO report was coming. (b)(5)
(b)(5)

M

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 9:09 AM
To: Barsa, John (b)(6) Gorka, Katie (b)(6) Taylor, Miles
(b)(6) Kendall, Sarah (b)(6)
Subject: FW: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, April 11, 2017

FYSA

GAO: DHS MUST EVALUATE EFFECTIVENESS OF CVE WORK. FedScoop (4/10, Ehlinger) details a report by the GAO that found DHS "has been working to counter violent extremism online and offline, but it has no means of measuring if its overall effort is actually helping." The GAO auditors wrote, "Although

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GAO was able to determine the status of the 44 CVE tasks, it was not able to determine if the United States is better off today than it was in 2011 as a result of these tasks."

Feds Haven't Evaluated If Efforts To Counter Extremism Actually Work, Watchdog Says

By Samantha Ehlinger
FedScoop, April 10, 2017

The federal government has been working to counter violent extremism online and offline, but it has no means of measuring if its overall effort is actually helping, a congressional watchdog says.

And the government task force created in part to evaluate that work hasn't established how to assess "overall progress," said the Government Accountability Office in a new report. The government has been working to counter violent extremism (CVE) through a variety of ways, according to the GAO, such as trying to develop relationships with the tech and social media industries.

Auditors checked the status of 44 tasks to address CVE domestically outlined in a 2011 Strategic Implementation Plan. The GAO found the government had implemented nearly half of those activities.

"Although GAO was able to determine the status of the 44 CVE tasks, it was not able to determine if the United States is better off today than it was in 2011 as a result of these tasks," the auditors note in the report.

"As of December 2016, there had been no comprehensive assessment of the federal government's CVE efforts' effectiveness," the report says, later adding that "according to CVE Task Force officials, they do not believe that assessing the overall effectiveness of the federal CVE effort is their responsibility."

But the task force is well positioned to do so, the GAO said. The watchdog recommended the Department of Homeland Security secretary and attorney general direct the CVE Task Force to develop a strategy with "measurable outcomes for CVE activities," and to "establish and implement a process to assess overall progress in CVE, including its effectiveness."

DHS and the Department of Justice both agreed with the recommendations.

Some activities in the tech space were still very much in progress, according to the report, including "reaching communities in the digital environment."

"For example, DHS aims to build relationships with the high-tech and social media industry and continues to meet with officials to discuss how to address violent extremism online," the auditors wrote. "In providing a status update on such activities, DHS recognized this as an area that continues to need attention."

There is also work being done, still, to make more training available for communities to fight against extremists online, the auditors said.

The report adds that DHS officials "noted making initial progress with YouTube and the Los Angeles Police Department in developing campaigns against violent extremism, but recognized this as an area that continues to need attention."

One of two tasks that had not yet seen any action was the idea to learn from former violent extremists.

"According to DHS officials, legal issues regarding access to former violent extremists are being explored and DOJ will lead this task moving forward," the report reads.

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From: Bulletin Intelligence
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 5:01:46 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, April 11, 2017

The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017 5:00 AM EDT

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Leading DHS News:

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ADMINISTRATION TO TEMPORARILY HALT REPORTS ON IMMIGRATION COOPERATION. The New York Times (4/10, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the Trump Administration "will temporarily stop publication of a weekly report spotlighting cities and counties that fail to cooperate with federal immigration officials...after several jurisdictions questioned the accuracy of the data." The report was mandated by an executive order that the President signed just days into his term.

FOURTH, NINTH CIRCUITS REVIEWING TRUMP'S REVISED TRAVEL ORDER. Politico (4/10, Gerstein, 2.46M) reports that the legality of President Trump's revised travel order is currently under consideration by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The court "said it will conduct an en banc hearing May 8 in Richmond on the federal government's appeal of a Maryland-based judge's ruling blocking Trump's ban on issuance of visas to citizens of six majority-Muslim countries." Politico indicates that such hearings normally go before a three-judge panel but that an "en banc session will involve 15 judges hearing the case." The Wall Street Journal (4/10, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports an en banc hearing will likely speed up the resolution of the case, which would likely lead to an appeal to the US Supreme Court.

Fox News (4/10, Singman, 11.07M) reports Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is leading a 15-state coalition to defend President Trump's revised executive order on immigration. Paxton, other state attorneys general and Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant on Friday filed "a friend-of-the-court amicus brief to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals," in which they "laid out constitutional and federal statutory provisions defending Trump's authority." In a statement, Paxton said, "The president's revised immigration order is constitutional, lawful, addresses the 9th Circuit's concerns and is a vital step in securing our borders."

DHS INFORMATION LEADS TO ARREST OF FUGITIVE FORMER MEXICAN GOVERNOR IN ITALY. The New York Times (4/10, Povoledo, Malkin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Tomás Yarrington Ruvalcaba, the fugitive ex-governor of the Mexican state Tamaulipas, was captured in Italy on Monday after being on the run since 2012 on charges of money laundering and racketeering. The Times mentions, "Italian officials had learned that Mr. Yarrington was likely to be hiding in Italy in February, through Interpol, acting on information gathered by the Department of Homeland Security in Washington."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE RESPONDS IN DISPUTE OVER ICE COURTHOUSE ARRESTS. The Los Angeles Times (4/10, Ulloa, 4.52M) reports California's legislature sent a letter to US officials last week in which they "ask[ed] U.S. Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions and Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly to identify the state's statutes or ordinances that they perceive as designed to prohibit or obstruct the enforcement of federal immigration law." The letter was sent from a lawyer with Covington & Burling, a "private firm hired by the state Senate and Assembly." The Times says the legislature's letter was in response to a letter from Sessions and Kelly "in which they admonished California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye" for writing a letter that "spoke out against federal immigration agents she said had been 'stalking' courthouses to make arrests."

TACOMA IMMIGRANT DETAINEES ENGAGE IN HUNGER STRIKE. The Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (4/10, Ocker, 215K) reports, "More than 100 immigrants detained at the Northwest Detention Center on Tacoma's Tideflats started a hunger strike Monday to protest conditions at the facility, according to an immigrant rights group." The three-day hunger strike is "intended to get concessions in terms of food, care and legal access, according to a letter from detainees released by the NWDC Resistance." ICE spokeswoman Rose Richeson is quoted as saying, "ICE fully respects the rights of all people to voice their opinion without interference and does not retaliate in any way against hunger strikers." KPTV-TV Portland, OR (4/10, 215K) reports online that ICE released a statement that explained if detainees are "found to go without eating for 72 hours, they will become subject to the agency's protocols for handling hunger strikes," which includes counseling about the "related medical risks" associated with the strike. The Willamette (OR) Week (4/10, Pein, 139K) provides additional coverage.

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NYTIMES: AS CALIFORNIA HEADS TOWARD BECOMING "SANCTUARY STATE," OTHER STATES MAY FOLLOW. The New York Times (4/10, Medina, Bidgood, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) analyzes the current legislative battle in California over "sanctuary state" legislation, and reports that other states may follow California's lead. The Times says, "While California is moving more decisively and quickly than any other state, bills that restrict cooperation with immigration officials have been introduced in several legislatures throughout the country, including in Illinois, Maryland, Nevada and New York." The Times explains that the pending California legislation "prohibits local law enforcement agencies from using resources to investigate, detain, report or arrest people for immigration violations." The Times adds that opponents of the "sanctuary state" legislation "argue that the state will effectively force the immigration authorities to make more arrests in public, where other immigrants who have not been convicted of any crime could also be swept up."

MARYLAND "SANCTUARY STATE" LEGISLATION WITHDRAWN. The Washington Times (4/10, Noble, 272K) reports, "A proposal to turn Maryland into a 'sanctuary state' by limiting local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities died in the State House on Monday after lawmakers withdrew the bill." Gov. Larry Hogan had vowed to veto it, and Attorney General Sessions criticized the measure. The Baltimore Sun (4/10, Wood, 714K) provides additional coverage.

STUDY SHOWS RISING IMMIGRATION ARRESTS. International Business Times (4/10, Wright, 814K) reports on a Pew Research Center study showing that "while the number of arrests for other federal offenses have plummeted sharply in the last 10 years," immigration arrests have soared. According to the study, "one in every two federal arrests were related to some type of immigration-related violation in 2014, the most recent month available for applicable data." By contrast, the Times says that there were 22 percent fewer immigration-related arrests in 2004, which represented 28 percent of all arrests at the time. The Times adds, "ICE has been ramping up its enforcement of national immigration laws since late January," and says that "arrests, detentions and deportations have continued at a high rate ever since." Breitbart (4/10, Mason, 2.02M) also details the report by Pew Research.

SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO US SAYS 4,000 SOMALI NATIONALS MARKED FOR DEPORTATION. Newsweek (4/10, Gaffey, 862K) reports the Somali ambassador to the US Ahmed Isse Awad said that immigration authorities have marked "around 4,000 Somali nationals for deportation." He further said most of the targeted Somalis were "not in detention centers." However, Awad did not provide any information on a deportation timeline for the Somali immigrants, according to Newsweek. ICE spokesman Brendan Raedy said, "While there has been an increase in removals to Somalia, I don't think it would be accurate to attribute that to the [President Trump's] election."

NEW POLARIS REPORT DETAILS EXPLOITATION OF HOTEL WORKERS. The New York Times (4/10, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that a new analysis from Polaris has found that hotel "workers can sometimes be exploited by those who market in human trafficking, even within the United States." In a review of calls to its National Human Trafficking Hotline between December 2007 and December 2016, Polaris found that "in non-sex-related cases involving workers in hotels, motels, resorts and casinos, 124 pertained to human trafficking, in which force, fraud or coercion were allegedly used to compel the victim to stay in their situation; and 510 cases involved workplace exploitation, including abuse and labor violations." The Times says, "Last year, federal officials arrested nearly 2,000 people for human trafficking in various commercial enterprises." Out of the 2,000 cases, "over 400 trafficking victims were identified, according to Homeland Security Investigations, a division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

GOV. ABBOTT: GANG INITIATIVE IS SEPARATE FROM IMMIGRATION ISSUES. The AP (4/10) reports a new initiative to "reduce gang violence in Houston won't be affected by reports of rising fear among Latinos of being detained by immigration authorities, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Monday." Abbott said law enforcement wouldn't be "relying upon a tip of some person out there who may be here illegally," but "added that state agents won't target potential witnesses over their immigration status."

DOZENS OF MAINE LAWYERS URGE AN END TO COURTHOUSE ARRESTS BY ICE. The AP (4/10) reports that dozens of lawyers in Maine on Monday sent a letter urging an end the practice of courthouse

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arrests by ICE, "in the wake of the detention of an asylum seeker in Portland." The ACLU said that 179 lawyers in Maine sent the letter to U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly.

CHICAGO'S "LITTLE VILLAGE" SEEKS TO "TAMP DOWN" ON IMMIGRATION FEARS. NBC News (4/9, Gamboa, 2.67M) reports that Chicago-area business leaders are trying to "tamp down" on the immigration fears that they say have been driving an economic slowdown. The piece highlights the drop in business in the city's "Little Village," which is a "2½-mile stretch of quinceañera shops, restaurants, shoe and clothing stores, dental offices and other businesses." According to NBC News, business owners are telling immigrants "there are no arrests going on in the neighborhood, that the Chicago police and local agencies don't cooperate with the feds or question the immigration or citizenship status of residents because Chicago is a sanctuary city." NBC says the business owners are calling on the mayor and police chief "to dispel anxieties."

RUMORS OF ICE RAIDS IMPACTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (4/10, 1.27M) reports rumors of ICE raids on social media have led immigrants in Minnesota to "shu[n] interactions with government." The Star Tribune says advocates are "trying to strike a delicate balance" by holding "Know Your Rights" seminars and "urging immigrants to prepare in case they get arrested or deported." Advocates are also "trying to rein in hearsay and maintain trust in local law enforcement."

Customs and Border Protection:

CBP SAYS BORDER WALL PROTOTYPES WILL BE BUILT NEAR SAN DIEGO. The Los Angeles Times (4/10, Molnar, Winkley, 4.52M) reports that US Customs and Border Protection confirmed Monday that "President Trump's proposed wall with Mexico will kick off in the San Diego border community of Otay Mesa." The community "is home to one of two border crossings in San Diego and will be the site where 20 chosen bidders will erect prototypes of the envisioned wall." Border Patrol spokesman Ralph DeSio "did not say exactly where the construction will take place, saying only that it would occur in the Otay Mesa area." DeSio "added that plans were subject to change." CBP said winners "will be selected around June 1."

LAWMAKERS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER COST OF ACQUIRING PRIVATE LANDS FOR BORDER WALL. Congressional Quarterly (4/10, Subscription Publication, 967) reports lawmakers are expressing concern over the potential high cost of seizing private lands to build a wall along the southern US border. CQ says the Administration has "requested funding in fiscal 2018 to hire 20 lawyers that would help acquire land needed to secure the 2,000-mile southern border, but the threat of eminent domain – the process by which the government seizes private property – has remained somewhat under the radar." CQ cites testimony from Secretary Kelly last week to the Senate where he said the border wall may be facing some "eminent domain issues," and there "may be places we have to do it." CQ adds that Kelly's statements "represented the administration's clearest sign to date that it is considering seizing land to fulfill Trump's promise for a wall." Democrats, who oppose the wall, are "warning the administration that taking property from private citizens will be costly, ineffective and unpopular."

RIO GRANDE BORDER CROSSINGS LOWEST IN 17 YEARS. The Los Angeles Times (4/10, Jarvie, 4.52M) reports that "the number of immigrants caught crossing illegally into the United States has dropped dramatically" over the past year, declining by 64 percent to "the lowest monthly number in 17 years." Reasons for the drop include "a rise in smuggling fees," tightened security, and "President Trump's aggressive stance on securing the border." Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly called the decline "no accident," and the White House said that Trump's "commitment to securing our border and supporting law enforcement is already showing results." Few changes in enforcement have actually taken place, however, and analysts say a change in perception has led to the decline. Some believe the slowdown in immigration is temporary, after many "took advantage of the political climate in the United States toward the end of last year" and aimed "to cross the border before Trump took office," the Times writes.

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BORDER PATROL EXCHANGES GUNFIRE WITH MAN AT LAS CRUCES CHECKPOINT. The El Paso (TX) Times (4/10, 149K) reports Border Patrol agents exchanged gunfire with a man crossing through the Las Cruces checkpoint on Sunday. The man was driving through the checkpoint and was referred to secondary inspection. CBP "said the man brandished a handgun during questioning and fired one gunshot through his vehicle in the direction of Border Patrol agents." Border Patrol returned fire and struck the man, who "remained hospitalized Monday." The AP (4/10) reports similarly.

CBP: ASSAULTS AGAINST BORDER PATROL OFFICERS DOUBLE. The Washington Examiner (4/10, Giaritelli, 400K) details statistics released by CBP that show assaults against Border Patrol officers has "doubled in the first six months of fiscal year 2017 compared to the same period of the previous year." CBP "reported 462 assaults against its officers from Sept. 31, 2016 through March 31, 2017 compared to 190 at the same time a year earlier."

SECRETARY KELLY TO DECIDE ON FATE OF VISA WAIVER PROGRAM FOR CHINESE, RUSSIAN TOURISTS. Marianas Variety (4/11, Villahermosa) reports Secretary Kelly "will decide whether the CNMI visa-waiver program for Chinese and Russian tourists will continue, according to Brian J. Humphrey, director of field operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection." In an interview on Monday, Humphrey "said the visa-waiver program will continue in the meantime."

BORDER PATROL AGENT FILES COUNTERCLAIM OVER 2014 CONFRONTATION WITH NAVY SEAL. The Los Angeles Times (4/10, Davis, 4.52M) reports a Border Patrol agent has filed a counterclaim against former Navy SEAL Alton Jones stemming from a 2014 confrontation near the Border Fence. The Times says Jones went for a jog near the fence and the jog "ended in a violent confrontation between the former Navy SEAL and Border Patrol agents, a night in a holding cell and dueling lawsuits being fought in San Diego federal court." Jones alleged "excessive use of force, violation of free speech, false imprisonment, battery by a peace officer, negligence and violation of the federal public records act, among other claims" in his lawsuit filed last summer. A Border Patrol agent filed a counterclaim "alleging he was the one who suffered physically and emotionally." The Times says, "It is the first time a federal agent has countersued seeking damages for pain and suffering in such a scenario in San Diego."

HUFFINGTON POST: MEXICAN WOMAN SEEKING ASYLUM REPEATEDLY TURNED AWAY BY

CBP. The Huffington Post (4/10, Planas, 237K) reports that legal groups have accused Customs and

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To:	"Nielsen, Kirstjen (b)(6) (b)(6) "Fulghum, Chip < (b)(6) "Hamilton, Gene < (b)(6) (b)(6) "Shah, Dimple </ (b)(6) "Maher, Joseph < (b)(6) "Corbin, Susan </ (b)(6) "Cassidy, Ben </O (b)(6) "Clark, Alaina </O (b)(6) "Frazier, Trent </ (b)(6) "Neumann, Elizab (b)(6) "Lapan, David </O (b)(6) "Hoffman, Jonatha (b)(6) (b)(6) "Cissna, Tiffany < (b)(6) "Kendall, Sarah < (b)(6) "Krebs, Christophe (b)(6) "Stoddard, Kaitlin (b)(6) "Taylor, Miles </O (b)(6) "Barsa, John </O= (b)(6) "Claffey, Lauren < (b)(6)
CC:	"Media Inquiry (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Press Round Up: Wednesday, June 7, 2017
Date:	2017/06/07 17:29:20
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Wednesday, June 7, 2017:

HQ:

-Secretary Kelly provided testimonybefore the House Committee on Homeland Security hearing titled "Department of Homeland Security Reauthorization and the President's FY 2018 Budget Request," Relevant clips attached.

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REAL ID:
-OPA continues to correct stories that suggest the enforcement schedule has changed and that Secretary Kelly announced a new extension yesterday. The below is being provided:

> *STATEMENT:*
> *Secretary Kelly in recent testimony referenced a pre-existing grace period for REAL ID enforcement. Limited extensions, formally allowing federal agencies to accept drivers' licenses from designated states, are valid through June 6, 2017. Following the expiration of limited extensions, residents of newly non-compliant states can expect a short grace period through July 10, 2017, however Secretary Kelly did not announce any changes to the REAL ID enforcement schedule. Enforcement measures will proceed as have been previously announced.*

Notable Clips:

DHS Secretary Kelly says he's not deporting Dreamers, suggests Congress grant full legalization (*The Washington Times*, 6/7/17)
Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly said Wednesday that his agents are not actively trying to deport illegal immigrant Dreamers approved for tentative status President Obama's 2012 deportation amnesty, and suggested Congress should find a way to grant them full legalization. Mr. Kelly declined to take a position on whether the program is legal, saying only that he's heard from both sides of the debate over the amnesty program, known as DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. LINK

Judicial Watch sues Homeland Security to find out why sanctuary city reports stopped (*The Washington Examiner*, 6/7/17)
Judicial Watch is suing the Department of Homeland Security for records related to the suspension of reports naming sanctuary cities that don't comply with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's detainer policy. "Sanctuary cities are violating federal law and putting public at risk. It's that simple," Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said regarding the Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. LINK

Trump suggests border wall with solar panels (*CNN*, 6/7/17)
President Donald Trump suggested his oft-promised border wall could be covered in solar panels in a meeting with congressional leaders, according to sources familiar with the conversation. Trump had convened Republican leaders at the White House for a conversation about their legislative agenda, largely on health care and the debt ceiling. LINK

Trump nominates David P. Pekoske to head TSA (*The Washington Post*, 6/7/17)
President Trump on Tuesday nominated David P. Pekoske, the former Coast Guard vice commandant, to be the next administrator of the Transportation Security Administration. "David has extensive experience in strategy development, operational leadership, crisis management, risk assessment, financial management, and team building," Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly said in a statement.LINK

Trump admin looking at 71 airports for potential large electronics ban (*CNN*, 6/7/17)
The Trump administration is looking at 71 more airports for a potential large electronics ban -- but the government is prepared to offer those countries alternatives before a ban is put in place, Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said Wednesday. "Going forward, the plan is to say,

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'These are the new minimum security things that you need to do at your airports, if you do that, then you can fly to the United States directly,'" Kelly told a House committee. LINK

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Subject:	Press Round-Up: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Date:	2017/04/05 18:01:52
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

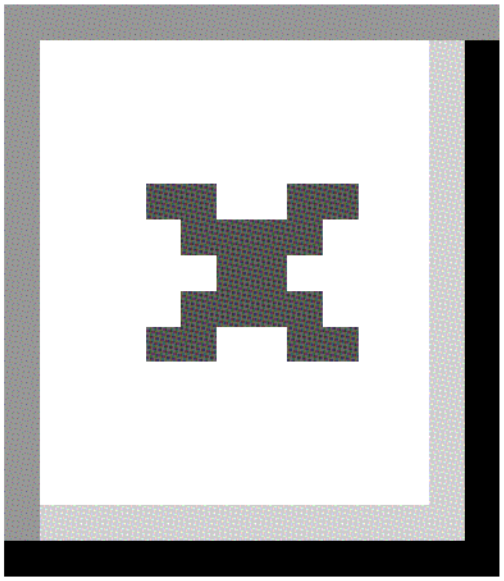
HQ

-The Secretary testified before the Senate Homeland Security &Governmental Affairs today: 'Improving Border Security and Public Safety.'

CBP

-CBP released March apprehension numbers for the southwest border today. In March 2017, 16,600 individuals were apprehended or deemed inadmissible, this is a 30% decrease from February 2017, and a 64% decrease from the same month in FY2016.

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Notable Clips:

A Full Border Wall With Mexico? 'Unlikely,' Homeland Security Chief Says (*The New York Times,* 04/05/17)
John F. Kelly, the homeland security secretary, said Wednesday that it was doubtful that a wall along the full border with Mexico would ever be built, despite an oft-repeated campaign promise by President Trump. "It is unlikely that we will build a wall from sea to shining sea," Mr. Kelly told senators on the Homeland Security Committee. Instead, Mr. Kelly said, the department would look to build physical barriers — including fencing and concrete walls — in places that made sense. He said the department was still studying the best places to construct such barriers, though he said he could not give an estimate of the cost. Mr. Kelly's testimony on Wednesday came as his department begins

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implementing key features of Mr. Trump's executive orders to increase border security and crack down on illegal immigration. Federal judges have blocked the department from carrying out the president's executive orders seeking to ban travel to the United States by citizens of six mostly Muslim countries. Nevertheless, Mr. Kelly said the department was proceeding with other efforts to strengthen border security and was starting to see some results. For example, he noted that apprehensions along the Southwest border had declined. Border Patrol agents caught almost 17,000 people trying to cross the border illegally last month, down from nearly 60,000 people in December. Mr. Kelly said stepped-up enforcement had forced smugglers to raise their prices, which most likely contributed to the decline. Link

Homeland Security chief backtracks on splitting families (*The Seattle Times*, 04/05/17)

Parents and children caught crossing the Mexican border into the United States illegally generally can remain together, the Homeland Security chief said Wednesday, in a partial reversal of previous comments. Secretary John Kelly also made clear that just about any immigrant in the United State illegally is a priority for immigration enforcement. "The start point is illegal status and then go to the priorities," Kelly told members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Oversight Committee. "They can go after an individual, under the law, if they are on the list because they are illegal." Kelly has previously said that young immigrants who took advantage of an Obama administration program that protects them from deportation and allows them to work legally in the United States won't be targeted for deportation unless they let that protection lapse or commit a crime. He did not address that group during his testimony Wednesday. Link

DHS Secretary John Kelly: Border wall will combine concrete, fencing, drones (*Washington Examiner*, 04/05/17)

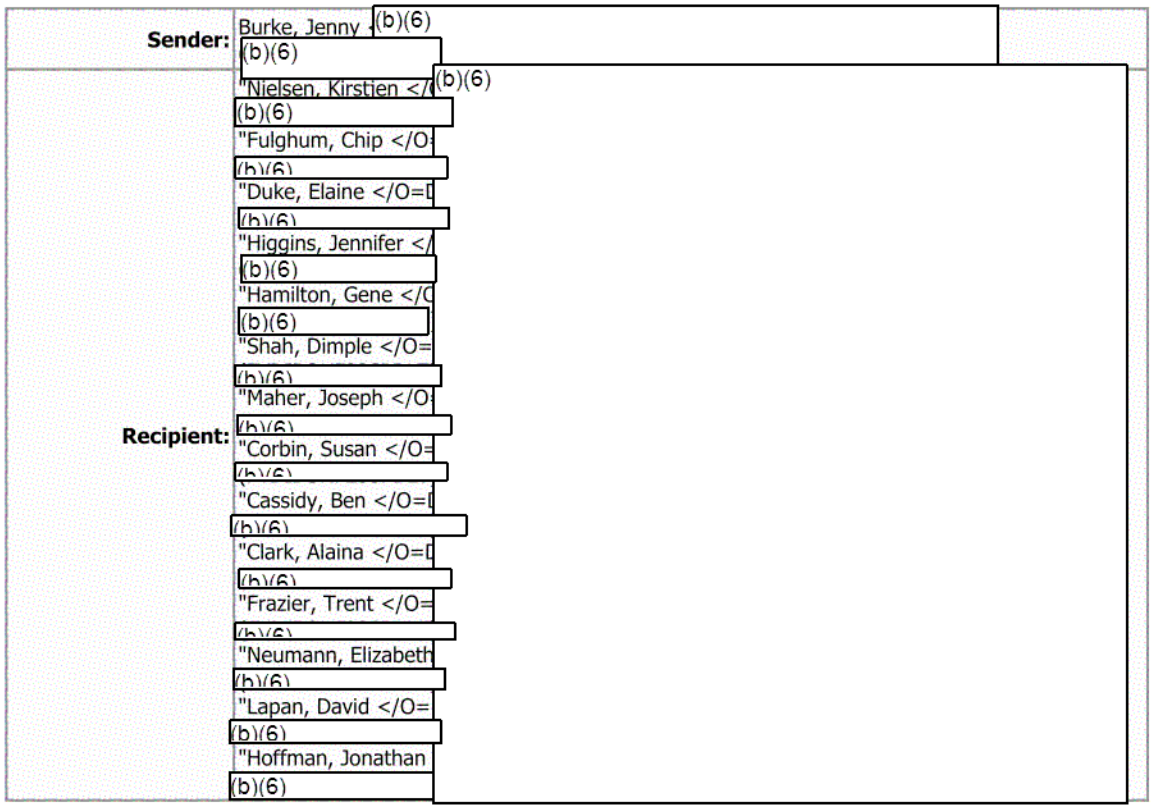
Homeland Secretary Secretary John Kelly said Wednesday that the border wall President Trump is trying to build will combine a concrete wall, less expensive fencing, and technology that can help the U.S. better monitor the border.

Kelly was asked by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., on Wednesday whether Trump realizes that the border wall will not end up being 2,000 miles of solid concrete, and Kelly agreed that the wall will vary depending on what's needed in each area of the border. "The president has told me, 'Kelly, go do it,'" Kelly said at a Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing. "We need to protect the southwest border in any way that that makes sense." "I have a lot of elbow room," he added. "The president knows that I'm looking at every variation... and I have no doubt when I go back to him and say, 'Boss, wall makes sense here... high-tech fencing makes sense over here, technology makes sense over here,' I have no doubt that he'll go tell me to do it." In a later response to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Kelly agreed that a "wall" can be seen as a combination of physical barriers but also drones and other technology aimed at enforcing the border. "In my view, the wall is all of that," Kelly said. Link

DHS Head Kelly Says Border Wall Unlikely to Stretch 'From Sea to Shining Sea' (*NBC News*, 04/05/17)

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Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly acknowledged Wednesday that President Donald Trump's proposed wall on the southern border of the United States will not extend "from sea to shining sea" and could partially be fencing. Kelly had few details about the size and scope of the wall when he testified in front of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, saying the administration would rely on the input of those working on the border for the specifics. "There is no way I can give the committee an estimate of how much it will cost," Kelly said. "I don't know what it will be made of, I don't know how high it will be, I don't know if it's going to have solar panels on its side and what the one side is going to look like and how's it's going to be painted." "It's unlikely that we will build a wall or physical barrier from sea to shining sea. But it is very likely, I'm committed, to putting it where the men and women say we should put it," he added. A wall on the 2,000-mile border between the U.S.and Mexico was a signature campaign promise for Trump as part of his pledge to cut down on illegal immigration. He also declared that Mexico would pay for the barrier, despite consistent insistence by Mexican officials that they will never fund it. The White House made a request for $1 billion to begin construction of the wall as part of its push to boost spending on defense and border security. But Democrats have vowed to block funding for the barrier and Republicans are wary of lumping the border request in with a broader spending bill to prevent a government shutdown before the April 28 deadline. "The sooner we stop this, you know, we're going to build a wall from sea to shining sea and the Mexicans are going to pay for it; it's embarrassing," Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill said Wednesday. "It's not going to happen. Everybody in Congress knows it's not going to happen." Link



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	(b)(6) 6) "Cissna, Tiffany </O (b)(6) "Kendall, Sarah </O (b)(6) "Krebs, Christopher (b)(6) "Taylor, Miles </O= (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/04/05 18:01:51
Delivered Date:	2017/04/05 18:01:52

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From:	Nielsen, Kirstjen (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Hamilton, Gene (b)(6) (b)(6) "Neumann, Elizabeth (b)(6) (b)(6) "Wolf, Chad (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: Border Wall Update
Date:	2017/07/27 13:58:50
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Per the other email chain-
Sent a version of this to (b)(6) on Sat after CBP briefed OMB

(b)(5)

There are no additional updates at this time

----------Chief of Staff
Department of Homeland Security

From: MCALEENAN, KEVIN K
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 2:55:30 PM
To: Nielsen, Kirstjen
Subject: Border Wall Update

Chief of Staff,

CBP is working aggressively to initiate border wall construction. CBP is on track to initiate prototype construction this Fall pending resolution of protests with GAO, and both FY17 upgrade wall and initial new miles of levee wall in RGV, pending FY18 funds availability, in January 2018. We are working to show visible construction occurring before the one year mark of the President's tenure. Details below.

FY17/FY18 Border Wall Schedules
- Funding was provided & design began for the FY17 Border Wall replacement projects in June. All FY17 projects will be ready to award in August or September, with construction starts staggered from January to March for projects in San Diego, El Centro & El Paso.

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(b)(7)(E)

- We have also begun design of the first [redacted] miles of new border wall in the Rio Grande Valley. If FY18 funds are made available in October, this construction could begin in January 2018.

Border Wall Prototype

(b)(5)

o Two companies protested the down-selects from the first phase of competition, both with 2 proposals. The GAO ruled in our favor and denied the protests from the first company. We received the second set of protests on Jun 26th. Our response is due Jul 26th and the GAO will rule on or before Oct 4th. If there are no new protests and the protest is adjudicated favorably the first week of October, we anticipate beginning construction the first week of November.

Lawsuits & the Secretary's Waiver

- The Secretary's waiver package to waive environmental reviews in order to expedite construction was submitted to DHS this week for the Secretary's signature, to support publishing in the Federal Register next week.

(b)(5)

o The Center for Biological Diversity has already filed litigation in California for perceived failure to comply w/NEPA & FOIA & notice of intent to sue for perceived failure to comply with the Endangered Species Act, which will be disposed of, with the Secretary's waiver publishing in the Federal Register. This litigation is aimed at prototype construction.

(b)(7)(E) RFI

- We have drafted an RFI seeking industry input related to the integration of (b)(7)(E) into the border security infrastructure (including, but not limited to the wall) and are prepared to publish. We typically provide industry 30 days to respond and depending upon the level of response would need an additional 30+ days to review & evaluate responses to determine next steps.

Sender:	Nielsen, Kirstjen (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	"Hamilton, Gene (b)(6) (b)(6) "Neumann, Elizabeth (b)(6) (b)(6) "Wolf, Chad (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent Date:	2017/07/27 13:58:50

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Cissna, Tiffany (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	Warning re food supply
Date:	2017/06/28 05:57:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

FYSA before Kansas mtgs.

DHS ISSUES WARNING ABOUT VULNERABILITY OF FOOD SUPPLY. On its website, WTOP-FM Washington (6/27, Green, 282K) reports DHS issued a warning about the vulnerability of the US food and beverage supply chains. The bulletin for first responders was issued on May 27 and said, "While we have not seen any specific, credible terrorist threats against Homeland food production and distribution infrastructure, we cannot rule out the possibility of inspired violent extremists or disgruntled insiders attempting to adulterate or poison food and beverages." The bulletin said those seeking to tamper with the food supply would likely do so with "commonly available toxic industrial chemicals or crude biological toxins due to the relative ease of product manipulation, especially at the last point of sale, which criminal actors have demonstrated consistently in the past." The dispatch also included possible indicators of suspicious activity, such as "attempts to purchase restricted chemicals without proper credentials," or "damaged product seals...or packaging...that would indicate tampering," among other indicators.

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 5:01:37 AM
To: DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Wednesday, June 28, 2017

The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017 5:00 AM EDT

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Leading DHS News:

SUPREME COURT TRAVEL BAN RULING LEAVES REFUGEES IN DOUBT. The New York Times (6/27, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that three words in Monday's Supreme Court announcement that it will hear two cases on President Trump's travel ban – "bona fide relationship" – have thrown into question whether refugees "who are among the most vulnerable people seeking a haven after fleeing persecution or conflict will be approved for resettlement" in the US. The Times says that "about four out of 10 refugees who come to the United States have no family ties in the country."

The AP (6/27, Caldwell, Lee) reports, "Government lawyers were working on guidelines Tuesday, one day after the Supreme Court partially reinstated the ban ahead of hearing arguments in October." USA Today (6/27, Gomez, 5.28M) reports, "Starting Thursday, the administration can bar people who don't have such ties, which were not fully defined by the court."

ABC News (6/27, 3.09M) reports the Supreme Court's ruling "left key questions unanswered and likely opened the floodgates for additional litigation." The "bona fide relationship" test "appears to be new and unprecedented in the context of immigration, legal experts told ABC News." State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said, "We don't have a definition here at the State Department for that yet. None of the agencies has that definition just yet." Nauert added that the definition and guidance will be shared with consular officers who review visa applications once it is determined. Fox News (6/27, Wallace, 11.07M) reports, "While there probably won't be the same level of chaos that ensued after the first travel ban was issued, immigration attorneys expect a flood of lawsuits to erupt out of the Supreme Court ruling that reinstated much of President Trump's Executive Order to restrict travel from six mostly Muslim nations."

Bloomberg News (6/27, Olorunnipa, Syeed, Wadhams, 2.41M) reports former USCIS director Leon Rodriguez said, "You have to take an order that at the end of the day is pretty vague and translate it into something that real people can implement, in real time. ... I can just picture the kinds of meetings that are going on." CNN International (6/27, 598K) features an interview with former CBP official Marco Lopez, who said there is a lot of uncertainty regarding the implementation of the court's order and the definition of "bona fide relationship."

Newsweek (6/27, Ziv, 862K) reports, "Muslim-American leaders and allies came together on

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Tuesday to urge the Supreme Court to rule this fall against President Donald Trump's travel ban." CAIR executive director Nihad Awad released a statement that said, "Today's decision by the Supreme Court ignores the anti-Muslim bigotry that is at the heart of the travel ban executive orders and will inevitably embolden Islamophobes in the administration to expand efforts to target the Muslim community with unconstitutional and counterproductive policies."

In an op-ed for CNN (6/27, Pate, Analyst, 29.79M), legal analyst Page Pate says the Court's ruling is "not the 'clear victory'" Trump claims it is. Pate adds, "The harmful and direct impact of the revised travel ban was so obvious to a majority of the Justices that they stayed a significant part of the measure as soon as they agreed to accept the case." Pate opines that the most "significant" part of the ruling is that it "doesn't fully reinstate the travel ban."

Reuters Analysis: Supreme Court's Travel Ban Decision Leaves Gray Areas. Reuters (6/27, Torbati) reports that many people fall into gray areas created by the Supreme Court order allowing parts of President Trump's travel ban to take effect. Reuters explains that "while the court said it would exempt travelers from the ban who have 'bona fide relationships' with Americans, the ruling did not specify exactly what that means." Reuters says gray areas also include "such things as travel strictly for tourism or to attend conferences." Reuters focuses on the impact to those granted diversity visas, with former US Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriquez saying, "Absolutely, diversity visas will be affected." Meanwhile, the State Department has said it's "trying to develop a definition for what constitutes a bona fide relationship for travelers." Finally, Hawaii Attorney General Douglas Chin, who led the fight against the order, said the exemptions "will likely spare businesses the kind of disruption they would have faced without them."

Immigrant-Rights Lawyers Plan To Travel To Airport After Ban Takes Effect. The AP (6/27, Long, Taxin) reports, "When the Trump administration's travel ban takes partial effect this week, immigrant-rights lawyers plan to head to the nation's major airports to make sure eligible foreigners are able to get into the country." However, attorneys "say few people are likely to be affected, and they don't expect a repeat of the mass confusion that resulted earlier this year when President Donald Trump rolled out his original ban on travel from a group of mostly Muslim countries." The AP adds that DHS "hasn't offered any guidance on how this week's Supreme Court ruling on the ban will be interpreted, so attorneys are preparing for anything and will monitor airports from Los Angeles to New York in case they are needed to assist foreigners held for questioning or denied entry by customs and border agents." The AP notes that DHS said the order will be carried out "professionally, with clear and sufficient public notice."

Iran's Foreign Minister Criticizes Supreme Court's Travel Ban Decision. Reuters (6/27) reports that Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif criticized the Supreme Court decision reviving part of President Trump's travel ban, "saying it would boost militants in the Middle East." He told a news conference in Berlin, "We always believed that the Muslim ban that President Trump imposed soon after assuming office had no basis in facts and would not help fight terrorism." He also said the decision is the "greatest gift" for militant groups seeking new recruits. Separately, he tweeted, "A bigoted ban on Muslims will not keep US safer. Instead of policies empowering extremists, US should join the real fight against them." He continued, "For some terrorism and support for terrorism is measured by the amount of arms they buy from the U.S, and not by actually being involved in acts of terrorism," in an apparent reference to recent US arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The Wall Street Journal (6/27, Eqbali, Fitch, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports similarly.

Rivkin, Casey: Supreme Court's Travel Ban Decision Boosts Judicial Integrity. Attorneys David B. Rivkin Jr. and Lee A. Casey write at the Wall Street Journal (6/27, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) that the Supreme Court's recent decision on President Trump's travel ban was a rebuke to politicized lower courts and a boost to the integrity of the judiciary. Rivkin and Casey say that the lower court decisions created an impression that a part of judiciary was engaged in anti-Trump resistance. They conclude that when the court revisits the issue in the fall,

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the Administration is likely to prevail and that any other decision would be inconsistent with precedent and injurious to the separation of powers.

"PETYA" RANSOMWARE ATTACK HITS COMPANIES AROUND THE WORLD. The New York Times (6/27, Scott, Perlroth, Frenkel, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that on Tuesday, an international cyberattack struck computer systems from Russia to the US. The Times says the Ukrainian government reported that several ministries and other systems were affected, and "a number of companies – including the Danish shipping giant Maersk; Rosneft, the Russian energy giant; Saint-Gobain, the French construction materials company; and WPP, the British advertising agency – also said they had been targeted." Drug giant Merck and multinational law firm DLA Piper also confirmed that their global computer networks had been attacked, marking the first confirmed US cases. According to computer experts, the virus, which is being called Petya, is similar to May's WannaCry attack, which spread quickly across much of Asia and Europe. The Times says, "It remains unclear who is behind this cyberattack."

The AP (6/27, Satter, Bajak) reports, "The origins of the malware remain unclear. Researchers picking the program apart found evidence its creators had borrowed from leaked National Security Agency code, raising the possibility that the digital havoc had spread using U.S. taxpayer-funded tools."

ABC News (6/27, 3.09M) quotes John Bambenek of Fidelis Cybersecurity: "Many researchers are seeing evidence that the NSA exploits are being used to propagate this. ... But in this case it's a whack-a-mole defense. There's nothing that would shut it down."

Another New York Times (6/27, Frenkel, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) article reports, "Cybersecurity researchers believe that like WannaCry, the ransomware infects computers using vulnerabilities in the central nerve of a computer, called a kernel, making it difficult for antivirus firms to detect. It is not yet known if the new ransomware uses any new vulnerabilities, or variants of the vulnerabilities, made public by the group known as the Shadow Brokers."

Reuters (6/27) reports, "Cyber security experts said those behind the attack appeared to have exploited the same type of hacking tool used in the WannaCry ransomware attack." Reuters adds, "The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it was monitoring reports of cyber attacks around the world and coordinating with other countries."

CNBC (6/27, 2.17M) quotes DHS: "We stand ready to support any request for assistance. Upon request, DHS routinely provides technical analysis and support."

The Wall Street Journal (6/27, McMillan, Gauthier-Villars, Marson, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) cites security researchers saying Petya may not propagate as quickly as WannaCry did, but it uses new techniques to spread within corporations more quickly. F-Secure Corp. chief research officer Mikko Hypponen is quoted saying, "This is going to continue. ... There is no kill switch. This is going to go on all night. This is going to go on tomorrow. This is going to go on for years." BitDefender LLC chief security strategist Catalin Cosoi is quoted saying, "It does not seem to be targeting anyone in particular. ... They seem to be infecting as many people a possible."

McClatchy (6/27, Johnson, 74K) reports, "While Ukraine and Russia were hardest hit, other countries that felt the impact included France, Spain, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, India and the United States."

However, another Reuters (6/27) article reports, "India's cyber security agency has yet to receive any reports of a latest ransomware attack hitting computers there, its boss told Reuters on Tuesday, after a Swiss government agency identified India as one of the main victims."

Bloomberg News (6/27, Robertson, 2.41M) says, "The new infections...are a sign that

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ransomware is becoming a routine risk of doing business, as other forms of attacks get less profitable."

Another AP (6/27) article reports, "A series of tweets issued by Ukraine's cyberpolice unit says the ransomware that has caused global havoc may have first spread through a rogue update to a piece of Ukrainian accounting software called MEDoc." The AP says, "Several vendors – including Kaspersky Lab and Cisco – have already identified MEDoc as a likely vector for the initial infections." The AP adds, "In a lengthy statement posted to Facebook, MEDoc acknowledged having been hacked but said it was not responsible for having seeded the rogue program."

The Washington (DC) Post (6/27, Roth, Nakashima, 11.43M), Politico (6/27, Geller, 2.46M), The Hill (6/27, Cama, 1.25M), the Financial Times (6/27, Foy, Subscription Publication, 1.39M), another Financial Times (6/27, Reporters, Subscription Publication, 1.39M) article, NBC News (6/27, Ortiz, Johnson, Popken, 2.67M), USA Today (6/27, Swartz, Sandler, 5.28M), CNN Money (6/27, 3.59M), another Reuters (6/27, Stubbs, Polityuk, Volz) article, NPR (6/27, Chappell, Dwyer, 1.92M), UPI (6/27), Engadget (6/27, Locklear, 659K), CNET News (6/27, Ng, 762K), and the New York Post (6/27, Massarella, 3.82M) report similarly.

DHS News:

DHS ISSUES WARNING ABOUT VULNERABILITY OF FOOD SUPPLY. On its website, WTOP-FM Washington (6/27, Green, 282K) reports DHS issued a warning about the vulnerability of the US food and beverage supply chains. The bulletin for first responders was issued on May 27 and said, "While we have not seen any specific, credible terrorist threats against Homeland food production and distribution infrastructure, we cannot rule out the possibility of inspired violent extremists or disgruntled insiders attempting to adulterate or poison food and beverages." The bulletin said those seeking to tamper with the food supply would likely do so with "commonly available toxic industrial chemicals or crude biological toxins due to the relative ease of product manipulation, especially at the last point of sale, which criminal actors have demonstrated consistently in the past." The dispatch also included possible indicators of suspicious activity, such as "attempts to purchase restricted chemicals without proper credentials," or "damaged product seals...or packaging...that would indicate tampering," among other indicators.

TSA NAMES NEW CHIEF OF STAFF AFTER WOLF ACCEPTS DHS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF POSITION. Aviation News Today (6/27) reports TSA has "informed AAAE that Acting TSA Administrator Huban Gowadia has announced the appointment of Ha Nguyen McNeill as TSA's new Chief of Staff." The current TSA Chief of Staff, Chad Wolf, "has accepted a position with the Department of Homeland Security as Deputy Chief of Staff." Aviation News Today includes a transcript of Gowadia's announcement to TSA employees about the appointments.

Border Wall:

DHS TO BEGIN WORK ON BORDER WALL PROTOTYPES THIS SUMMER. The New York Times (6/27, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that CBP Acting Deputy Commissioner Ronald Vitiello said Tuesday that DHS "will start construction of prototypes for a border wall this summer in the San Diego area." The prototypes "would be added to the existing border walls in San Diego and would allow the agency to evaluate which barriers are most effective in giving Border Patrol agents time to respond to illegal drugs and human smuggling." Four to eight prototypes are planned, but DHS did not say when construction would begin. The Los Angeles Times (6/27, Tanfani, 4.52M) reports that Vitiello said, "We're evaluating proposals now. We think it's summer. It's kind of hard to nail down."

The Washington Post (6/27, Jan, 11.43M) reports Vitiello "said Tuesday that the agency has entered the second phase in evaluating contract proposals." He "would not say how many

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companies are in contention, but said it was a 'substantial group.'" The Guardian (UK) (6/27, Smith, 4.07M) reports Vitiello said, "There's a contracting process that has to go on so we're evaluating proposals now. We have to make decisions against that and then we'll have to see what the planning allows for. We think it's summer but I can't be more exact than that ... I think that gives us until September." Vitiello also "said between four and eight companies would make the final round." The Huffington Post (6/27, Liebelson, 237K) reports similarly.

NBC News (6/27, 2.67M) reports Vitiello "declined to say whether solar panels would be incorporated into any of the prototypes but said contractors were encouraged to innovate and noted that some companies had suggested they might include the technology."

The Washington Times (6/27, Dinan, 272K) reports that Vitiello said that "at least 130 miles of the US-Mexico border have enough natural barriers that there's no need to build a wall there – leaving most of the 1,954-mile divide as potential ground for a fence."

Immigration Policy:

TRUMP TO MEET WITH VICTIMS OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY THOSE IN US ILLEGALLY. The Washington Examiner (6/28, Kasperowicz, 400K) reports, "President Trump on Wednesday will use the bully pulpit to rally support for tough immigration legislation, a day after he was forced to watch the Senate pull the plug on a healthcare reform bill that Trump has sought since his election." Trump will meet with "victims of crimes committed by illegal immigrants in a bid to boost two bills that the House is expected to pass Thursday" before the July 4 break. The bills are "aimed at thwarting 'sanctuary cities.'"

New Group Advocates For Victims Of Such Crimes. Townhall (6/27, McCarthy, 402K) reports on the founding of Advocates for Victims of Illegal Alien Crime (AVIAC), "founded by Mary Ann Mendoza and Don Rosenberg, who both lost their children to illegal immigrant felons." AVIAC "aims to be a resource for victims of illegal alien crimes, such as assault and battery, identity theft and rape; the organization also seeks to serve families of these victims." The Daily Caller (6/27, Racke, 898K) reports, "AVIAC co-founder and vice president Mary Ann Mendoza was invited to attend Trump's signing of executive orders on immigration enforcement in January, and she was present at DHS Secretary John Kelly's announcement of the VOICE office in April."

CONTINUING COVERAGE: PENTAGON PROGRAM OFFERING CITIZENSHIP MAY BE IN DOUBT. In continuing coverage, the San Diego Union-Tribune (6/27, Steele, 496K) reports, "A Defense Department program that offers citizenship to immigrants with special skills is in doubt, after Pentagon officials say it poses security risks and takes too many resources to vet candidates." The Pentagon is "considering a plan to cancel enlistment contracts for 1,000 foreign-born recruits without legal immigration status, knowingly exposing them to deportation, the [Washington] Post reported."

SILICON VALLEY RAISES CONCERNS OVER IMMIGRATION REFORMS. CNBC (6/27, 2.17M) reports, "Tension over immigration reform is rising in Silicon Valley." CNBC highlights the Supreme Court's decision on Monday that "let President Donald Trump's immigration travel ban go into effect for some travelers," and a report that the Administration "may scrap the new 'start-up visa'" as some of the issues that concern Silicon Valley. CNBC adds that Trump signed an executive order in April calling for a comprehensive review of the H-1B visa, which "has been a favorite of the tech industry." CNBC notes that employer applications for H-1B visas in fiscal 2018 "declined for the first time in years, according to a report from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services released in April."

BREITBART: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION USED U VISAS AS "BACKDOOR AMNESTY." Breitbart (6/27, Munro, 2.02M) reports the Obama Administration's "lax" immigration regulations "encouraged a huge number of illegals to file for U visas – and also allowed many illegals to get residency and work permits years before they receive the actual U visa," despite the fact that the

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"program was limited to 10,000 visas per year." Breitbart says the Obama Administration approved 78,637 U visas in the second term. Breitbart adds that an "apparently unlawful USCIS policy" allows applicants to receive "conditional approval" and a "work authorization until U visas become available the following year."

REFUGEE ARRIVALS IN SAN DIEGO DOWN THIS YEAR. The San Diego Union-Tribune (6/27, Morrissey, 496K) reports, "Refugee arrivals to San Diego County in May were down from...the previous year, an ongoing trend that began with President Donald Trump's administration." The country "received 79 new arrivals in May, down about 23 percent from May's total last year, according to data from the U.S. State Department."

WEST VIRGINIA JOINS 10-STATE COALITION TO SUPPORT SANCTUARY-CITIES ORDER. The Clarksburg (WV) Exponent-Telegram (6/27, Marks, 41K) reports, "On June 16, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced he was joining Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry and attorneys general in eight other states to intervene in three court cases challenging President Donald Trump's executive order banning the creation of sanctuary cities." The attorneys general "filed a friend-of-the-court brief in three California cases questioning the constitutionality of the executive order." Morrisey is quoted as saying, "The establishment of sanctuary cities undermines the rule of law. ... We need to equip law enforcement with the tools they need to cooperate with federal law enforcement and ensure public safety." Morrisey also "said local police should comply with federal immigration law."

NASHVILLE MAYOR URGES COUNCIL TO RETHINK IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE. The Tennessean (6/27, Garrison, 407K) reports Nashville Mayor Megan Barry "says the Metro Council should rethink controversial legislation that would limit Nashville's participation in carrying out federal immigration law now that the city's top attorney concluded the ordinance is not enforceable." The Tennessean says the resistance to the bill has caused the ordinance's sponsors to say they no longer plan to hold a vote next week. The Tennessean adds, "In a much-anticipated legal opinion issued Monday, Metro Director of Law Jon Cooper said that under state law the council cannot prohibit the Nashville sheriff, a state constitutional officer who controls the city's jails, from cooperating with federal authorities on immigration."

STRANGE OUT WITH AD SUPPORTING TRUMP'S POLICIES ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. Alabama Today (6/27, Lauten) reported that Sen. Luther Strange (R-AL), who was appointed to succeed now-US Attorney General Jeff Sessions and will attempt to keep his seat in a special election later this year, on Tuesday "released of his third television ad for the Republican special Senate primary election" – a spot highlighting his "commitment to working with Trump and...Sessions to fight against illegal immigration." The ad "focuses on Strange's legislation" aimed at cutting "funding to sanctuary cities and [using] those funds to build the border wall." The spot "also highlights" Strange's "successful battle against President Barack Obama's illegal amnesty executive order while serving as Attorney General of Alabama."

TALK RADIO HOSTS TO TAKE PART IN FAIR BROADCAST EVENT NEAR CAPITOL. The Washington Times (6/27, Harper, 272K) reports, "Beginning Wednesday, more than 60 talk radio hosts from around the country will converge on the nation's capital for the 11th annual 'Hold Their Feet to the Fire,' a broadcast event sponsored by the Federation for American Immigration Reform." The hosts "will be broadcasting live from a temporary 'radio row' site just blocks from the US Capitol, their shows aired through nationwide syndication or from their home stations."

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO APPEAL RULING DENYING IN-STATE TUITION FOR DREAMERS. The Arizona Republic (6/28, Ryman, 1.1M) reports the Maricopa County Community College District voted 4-3 on Tuesday in favor of appealing a court ruling that denies in-state tuition to DACA recipients. The AP (6/28) reports, "Last week's Court of Appeals decision overruled a judge's 2015 decision that said students in the program created by former President Barack Obama were considered legally present in the U.S. and qualify for in-state tuition."

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OPINION: SANCTUARY CITIES BILL MAKES COMMUNITIES LESS SAFE. In an op-ed for The Hill (6/27, Noorani, 1.25M) "Congress Blog," National Immigration Forum executive director Ali Noorani argues the House of Representatives will likely vote on a bill this week that "would make it more difficult for local law enforcement to keep our cities and towns safe." Noorani opines, "That's because instead of reaffirming chiefs' and sheriffs' efforts to build trust with their communities, these measures would force them to take on the responsibilities of federal immigration enforcement officials." Noorani says the bill is the "latest example of an immigration conversation in which legislators and local law enforcement leaders are talking past each other, despite a common goal on which all of us can agree: community safety." He adds that police organizations don't support the bill, noting that the Fraternal Order of Police "said in a letter to House leadership that it opposes any legislation that would 'penalize law enforcement agencies by withholding Federal funding or resources from law enforcement assistance programs in an effort to coerce a policy change at the local level.'" Noorani concludes that local law enforcement should be free to focus on local crimes, and not be forced to take part in immigration enforcement.

Aviation Security:

AMERICAN AIRLINES TO SPEND $6 MILLION ON 3-D SCANNERS. CNBC (6/27, 2.17M) reports American Airlines will spend $6 million on "3-D carry-on bag screeners and will deploy them at airports once the machines get fully certified by the Transportation Security Administration." The TSA is "currently testing the CT scanners built by Massachusetts-based Analogic." CNBC explains the new 3-D scanners "not only give TSA agents a clearer view of potential problems in bags, including explosives, but the machines are designed to go twice as fast checking carry-on bags."

HOUSE PROVISION WOULD REQUIRE METAL SECURITY GATES ON NEW PLANES. USA Today (6/27, Jansen, 5.28M) reports the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Tuesday agreed to "require airlines to install secondary metal barriers on new planes to prevent terrorists from entering the flight deck" as part of its Federal Aviation Reauthorization Bill. The lack of such barriers, according to Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN), "leaves the flight deck vulnerable and pilots defenseless to potential attackers looking to seize control of the aircraft."

CALIFORNIA PROFESSOR DEVELOPS AIRPORT SCREENER THAT CAN DETECT LIES. The Washington Post (6/27, Kunkle, 11.43M) reports, "A professor in California has developed a screener for airport or border control checkpoints to determine whether a traveler is lying, smuggling contraband or otherwise up to no good." San Diego State University assistant professor Aaron Elkins calls the technology the Automated Virtual Agent for Truth Assessments in Real Time, or AVATAR. The machine "scans and sifts a range of data, from facial movements to eye movement to pupil dilation to curling toes" and "interrogates travelers to figure out if a person is lying or trying to enter the country with ulterior motives."

Immigration Enforcement:

CONTINUING COVERAGE: JUDGE BLOCKS DEPORTATION OF IRAQIS. In continuing coverage, the Washington Post (6/27, 11.43M) reports, "A Detroit federal judge has temporarily halted the deportations of scores of Iraqi nationals nationwide who advocates say could face persecution, torture and death upon returning to their native country." Late Monday, District Judge Mark Goldsmith "issued a stay of removal for about 1,444 Iraqi nationals recently rounded up across the country, including about 85 who are in detention and were expected to be removed on a plane to Baghdad as early as Tuesday." The Iraqis "will now have two more weeks to challenge their deportations." USA Today (6/27, Baldas, 5.28M) reports Goldsmith "concluded the Iraqi nationals – most of them Christians – could face persecution if sent back home and deserve more time to seek legal intervention," and also "said the case presents 'extreme circumstances.'" Reuters (6/27, Friess) reports similarly.

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In an analysis for the Washington Post (6/27, Vengroff, 11.43M), University of Connecticut political science professor Richard Vengroff says the case "appears to be the result of new Trump administration rules intended to make it harder to secure political asylum." Vengroff explains the process for securing asylum, and says new guidelines by the Administration "strongly encourage ICE officers to reject and refer applicants for immediate deportation if they don't fit the criteria or don't have a 'well-founded' fear of returning to their home country, or both."

CONTINUING COVERAGE: RESTAURANT OWNER CLAIMS 30 EMPLOYEES QUIT FOLLOWING VISIT FROM ICE. In continuing coverage, the Washington Post (6/27, Carman, Selk, 11.43M) reports, "The co-owner of a dockside Baltimore restaurant has revealed that nearly his entire kitchen staff resigned after an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent demanded their papers in the latest example of the national debate over immigration." BoatHouse Canton owner Gene Singleton wrote an open letter to customers on Saturday that "blamed the Trump administration 'for targeting the Hispanic community.'" The restaurant is now "short 30 workers, with the remaining staff working double shifts and the departed seeking help from an immigrant advocacy agency." Singleton said an ICE agent came to the restaurant witha letter demanding a "list of anyone who worked at the restaurant in the past two years, along with their employment eligibility forms." An ICE spokesman "said the agency conducted nearly 1,300 similar audits the year before – sometimes when it suspected an employer was violating hiring laws." The Baltimore Sun (6/26, Wells, Richman, 714K) and the AP (6/27) report similarly.

ADVOCATES PROTEST IMMIGRANT'S DEATH OUTSIDE JAIL. NJ News (6/27, 952K) reports, "Immigrant and civil rights advocates joined faith groups outside Hudson County's jail Monday night to demand answers in the case of a 35-year-old Honduran immigrant who died in Jersey City two weeks ago after being detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents." Protesters "demanded an independent oversight committee to review jail conditions and the jail's contract with its medical services provider."

IMMIGRANT CHARGED WITH MURDER ACCUSED IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE. The New York Daily News (6/27, Elizalde, 4.45M) reports El Salvador-national Darwin Martinez Torres, who is charged with "murdering a 17-year-old Muslim girl during Ramadan," was also "accused of sexually assaulting another woman a week before the teen's slaying in Virginia and is reportedly an MS-13 gang member." The Daily News notes that ICE placed a detainer on Martinez Torres after he was charged in the murder.

ECUADOR NATIONAL CHARGED IN PEDESTRIAN FATALITY DETAINED BY ICE. The Trentonian (NJ) (6/27, Ray, 128K) reports Armando Alvarez, of Ecuador, was detained by ICE after fatally striking a "pedestrian with a car in Hamilton Saturday night." Alvarez was arrested and was charged with causing death while operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed. He was released on his own recognizance following a Monday hearing, but was then detained by ICE. A spokesperson with ICE "confirmed Tuesday that Alvarez is now in the custody of immigration officials, and that he's being held in Essex County Jail with a notice to appear for immigration proceedings at a later date."

ADVOCATES RALLY ON BEHALF OF LABOR LEADER FACING DEPORTATION. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/27, Koumpilova, 1.27M) reports, "Labor and immigration activists rallied Tuesday at the Hennepin County Public Safety Center in support of a Twin Cities labor leader who faces deportation to Guatemala." The Star Tribune says that immigration authorities recently detained Luciano Mejia Morales, who was part of a "campaign to unionize janitors," after his release from jail following a traffic stop this month. Supporters "argue his Central American homeland is unsafe for a U.S. deportee, particularly one who has been active in labor organizing."

Border Security:

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BORDER PATROL ARRESTS FIVE IN FLORIDA IN APPARENT SMUGGLING ATTEMPT. The AP (6/27) reports Border Patrol agents arrested five individuals at an apartment in Florida "in an apparent smuggling attempt." Miami Division Chief Todd Bryant "said in a statement that one of the men appeared to be suffering from dehydration and was taken to a local hospital for treatment." The South Florida Sun Sentinel (6/27, Trischitta, 581K) reports, "Migrants traveling in an open fishing boat arrived at a Fort Lauderdale marina on Tuesday morning, disrupting a neighborhood that includes an iconic Fort Lauderdale hotel." Local law enforcement searched the hotel grounds and surrounding areas for other individuals who may have gotten away. Division Chief Bryant added, "Broadly speaking, maritime smuggling events have decreased significantly since the executive order that repealed the Cuban Adjustment Act." The Miami Herald (6/27, 856K) reports, "Border Patrol officers and Fort Lauderdale police are continuing to search for any other migrants in the area, the agency said."

BORDER PATROL SEIZES 200 POUNDS OF COCAINE, METH FROM GAS TANK. On its website, KNSD-TV San Diego (6/27, Kaur, 216K) reports, "Border Patrol agents found 200 pounds of cocaine and methamphetamine inside the gas tank of a bus at the San Ysidro port of entry over the weekend." The drugs have a street value of more than $3.2 million, according to CBP. Agents on Sunday determined that a commercial bus at the port of entry needed a secondary inspection and "agents found anomalies with the bus's gas tank and discovered 98 packages from inside." The driver was a Mexican citizen with a B1/B2 visa and was turned over to HSI for further investigation.

CBP ARRESTS 12 DRUG MULES AND SEIZES A HALF TON OF MARIJUANA. The Daily Caller (6/27, Birr, 898K) reports, "Authorities along the U.S. border arrested two U.S. citizens and 12 drug mules hiding in the back of a van with more than a half ton of marijuana Monday in Arizona." CBP agents at the Nogales Station "seized more than 1,100 pounds of weed Monday after stopping a suspicious vehicle on Highway 82." Agents apprehended the drivers, who tried to flee on foot, and then found "12 drug mules in the back of the van, along with dozens of large marijuana bundles, according to an agent who spoke to The Daily Caller News Foundation." The drivers were identified as US citizen, and the value of the drugs was estimated at $600,000.

Emergency Response:

WESTERN US WILDFIRES HIGHLIGHTED. The CBS Evening News (6/27, story 11, 0:10, Mason, 11.17M) reported that a Prescott National Forest blaze in Arizona was one of "more than 20 major wildfires" burning in America's western region on Monday. The Arizona fire was "only five percent contained" at the time the CBS story aired.

FEMA Helping With Arizona Wildfire Containment Effort. CNN (6/26, Cullinane, Sterling, 29.79M) reports on its website that the western US wildfires fight is getting a FEMA boost. The agency "is assisting Arizona with efforts to contain" the Goodwin Fire.

FEMA MONITORING MICHIGAN FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORT. The AP (6/27) reports flood recovery efforts are underway in the Michigan-based counties of Isabella and Midland. Representatives of FEMA are "monitoring the situation."

REP. LIPINSKI ANNOUNCES $309,000 DHS GRANT FOR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT. The La Grange (IL) News (6/27, 276) reports Rep. Dan Lipinski announced that the La Grange Fire Department was awarded "309,000 through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program." The grant will fund the purchase of new portable radios. The La Grange News notes that the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program "provides needed federal funds to fire departments and emergency medical service organizations in order to improve the response capabilities of our nation's first responders and the safety of our communities."

Coast Guard:

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COAST GUARD LARGEST ICEBREAKER VESSEL HAS HOMEPORT IN SEATTLE. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (6/27, Martin, 666K) reports the Coast Guard's "largest and most technologically advanced icebreaker," the USCGC Healy, has its homeport in Seattle. The vessel left Tuesday "for a five-month long deployment to the Arctic Circle." The Healy is an "Arctic research vessel that can carry a crew of 85 and up to 50 scientists and researchers into the far reaches of the North Pole," and will be "traveling through the Bering, Beaufort and Chukchi Seas."

Cyber News:

DHS IG: DHS DID NOT HACK GEORGIA VOTER SYSTEM COMPUTERS. In continuing coverage, The Hill (6/27, Uchill, 1.25M) details a new report from the DHS IG that found DHS "did not engage in a prolonged cyberattack against the state of Georgia." IG John Roth wrote, "We have recently completed our investigation into these allegations and have determined that the activity Georgia noted on its computer networks was the result of normal and automatic computer message exchanges generated by the Microsoft applications involved." The investigation stemmed from a December letter from Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp that "accus[ed] the DHS of 10 cyberattacks of varying sizes around the time of the 2016 presidential election."

EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ELECTION SYSTEM CYBERSECURITY SEEN AS LACKING LEADERSHIP. Real Clear Politics (6/27, Berg, 1.12M) reports, "Many lawmakers and experts agree" that attempts to interfere in US elections "will happen again," but "it's less clear what anyone will do about it – and even those lawmakers with the power to act fear that this time will be no different." RCP adds, "In parallel hearings...the House and Senate intelligence committees considered what cybersecurity measures might stave off the threat. But the dominant theme among the panels was of worry, rather than confidence in the current system." RCP recounts former Secretary Jeh Johnson's testimony, which dealt with DHS's attempts to assist state and local elections officials. RCP says such efforts "have suffered without a strong push from the top. 'We really need a national leader to take on this issue,' Johnson said."

Securing Funding To Protect Election Systems "Always A Struggle." NPR (6/27, 1.92M) reports, "What would it cost to protect the nation's voting systems from attack? About $400 million would go a long way, say cybersecurity experts. It's not a lot of money when it comes to national defense...but getting funds for election systems is always a struggle." NPR says, "Several bills have been introduced in Congress to provide more funds for voting equipment, but they've gone nowhere so far. President Trump's budget also includes no new funding for states to improve election security." NPR adds, "About half the states conduct post-election audits, but few do the targeted ones that...security experts say are needed."

FORMER DHS SECRETARY: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION NEEDED TO PROSECUTE CYBERCRIME. CNBC (6/27, 2.17M) reports, "Former secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff said international cooperation is needed to track down and prosecute cybercrimes." Chertoff is quoted saying on CNBC's Closing Bell, "There ought to be an agreement, and I think tracking down the people who do this, tracking down where they put their money are all ways you can start to push back on this increasing epidemic."

AITEL: PRIVATE-PUBLIC "CYBER INVESTIGATORY SETUP" COULD BE USEFUL IN COMBATING ECONOMIC CYBERESPIONAGE. Immunity Inc. CEO Dave Aitel writes in The Hill (6/27, Aitel, 1.25M) about a new bill, the Active Cyber Defense Certainty Act, which would authorize "for the first time" companies and organizations to "hack back" against perpetrators of cyberattacks "in order to obtain identifying information that can be used to attribute the attack." Aitel says the US's cyberprogram "is aimed towards our strategic national security and intelligence needs," not those of companies, and "without information directly from" perpetrators, "it is often impossible to demonstrate harm has been done, especially when legal sanctions are on the line." Aitel says the ACDC "doesn't go far enough in creating a tenable framework for active defense," and he proposes a "cyber investigatory setup funded by private industry but run

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by the government," which he says "would have a massive deterrent effect on cyber economic espionage."

AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE HACKING OF NEW YORK TOWN WEBSITE. Newsday (NY) (6/27, MacGowan, 1.3M) reports the website of Brookhaven Town, New York "was restored at about 1 p.m. Tuesday after it had been shut down Sunday while authorities investigated whether it had been hacked by a pro-Islamic State group." DHS "is investigating the suspected hacking."

CHINA FORMALIZES NATIONAL CYBER THREAT RESPONSE PLAN. Reuters (6/27) reports the Cyberspace Administration of China announced a "new nationwide cyber attack response plan on Tuesday, as the country seeks to ramp up protection in the face of increasingly sophisticated global threats." The plan, as announced in a notice on the agency's website, "requires provinces to upgrade networks and construct expert response teams as part of the centralized reporting system." The response plan also includes a "four-tier color-coded warning system that ranks cyber attacks," and "requires relevant departments to open international channels of communication during the sudden onset of international security threats."

Global Media:

REFUGEES LEAVING US FOR CANADA. On its website, WUSA-TV Washington (6/27, 70K) reports, "What started as a mere spike in new refugee arrivals, has become an established trend of refugees illegally crossing the border from the United States to Canada." The Canadian Border Services Agency reported that "3,461 people were picked up near the border by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) from January through the end of May."

Terrorism Investigations:

FBI OFFICIAL: NSA AIDED TURKS IN IDENTIFYING SUSPECT IN ISTANBUL ATTACK. The New York Times (6/27, Savage, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that a "senior FBI official" said Tuesday that the NSA used its warrantless surveillance program to "help Turkey find the suspect in a terrorist attack at an Istanbul nightclub on Dec. 31 that killed 39 people and wounded dozens more." The surveillance program's role in hunting down the suspect was "one of several newly declassified examples that national security officials, including Carl Ghattas, the head of the FBI's national security branch, divulged at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing about the FISA Amendments Act," which is set to expire at the end of 2017 if Congress does not extend it. But the Times says the "pitch by the security officials to persuade lawmakers to extend the law or make it permanent ran into political turbulence, including continuing anger by Republicans over the leaking of the contents of calls in December" between former national security adviser Michael Flynn and the Russian ambassador.

NORTH CAROLINA MAN WHO PLOTTED ISIS-INSPIRED ATTACK SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON. Reuters (6/27, Simpson) reports that on Tuesday, Justin Sullivan of Morganton, North Carolina was sentenced to life in prison "for plotting mass shootings in the name of" ISIS. Sullivan is also "accused of murdering his neighbor and offering to pay an undercover agent to kill his parents," according to Reuters. Sullivan, 21, pleaded guilty in November to one count of attempting to commit an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries. Reuters reports that "prosecutors said Sullivan conspired with Junaid Hussain, a British hacker who was an online recruiter of people to carry out attacks on behalf of" ISIS. Reuters notes that Hussain was "killed by a U.S. air strike in Syria in 2015."

The Hill (6/27, Beavers, 1.25M) reports that Sullivan "at one point told an FBI undercover employee (UCE) about his attack plans over social media, while attempting to recruit the agent to join him in his efforts." According to the McDowell (NC) News (6/27, 8K), "Next, the state will move forward with Sullivan's murder case for the killing of Morganton man John Bailey Clark, 74, in December 2014. State prosecutors will seek the death penalty."

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US ATTORNEY APPEALS RULING THAT WOULD FREE TERRORISM SUSPECT HELD SINCE 2012. The Denver Post (6/27, Mitchell, 778K) reports that the US Attorney's Office "has appealed a judge's order to release an Uzbek refugee before his trial on charges that he provided material support to the Islamic Jihad Union." According to the Post, "The appeal to the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver was made in hopes of halting the release this week of Jamshid Muhtorov, who was arrested by FBI agents in January of 2012 and been locked up for 5½ years without a trial." On Friday, US District Court Senior Judge John Kane ordered Muhtorov's release. The Post says Assistant US Attorney Gregory Holloway maintains "there are no conditions or combination of conditions that would ensure public safety if Muhtorov is released pending his trial, which has been delayed until March of 2018."

Reuters (6/27, Coffman) reports that while Muhtorov has "argued he should be given bail after repeated delays in the case violated his right to a speedy trial," prosecutors contend that Muhtorov is "plainly a threat to the public and others," and "also posed a flight risk." According to Reuters, Muhtorov is "accused of trying to smuggle smart phones and other electronic equipment to the Islamic Jihad Union (IJU), a Pakistan-based extremist group that opposes secular rule in Uzbekistan and seeks to install a government based on Islamic law."

ALABAMA ARMY BASE LOCKDOWN LIFTED; CALLS DEEMED NOT CREDIBLE. Reuters (6/27) reports that on Tuesday, a lockdown of the US Army's Redstone Arsenal in Alabama "was lifted after two telephone calls reporting an active shooter...turned out to be false." The commander of the base, Colonel Thomas Holliday, said "no threat was found and an investigation is under way to determine who made the calls from within a building where the shooter was reported to have been," according to Reuters.

CNN International (6/27, Ellis, Hanna, Browne, 598K) reports that Holliday "said 911 received two calls from the Sparkman Center around 9 a.m., one saying shots were fired and the other saying someone saw a weapon." According to Yahoo! News (6/27, Mindock, 8.62M), "The Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and local agencies were reportedly responding to the events, and were present at the site." The Hill (6/27, Mitchell, 1.25M) also reported that FBI agents "had been sent to the facility."

OHIO MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR MONTHS IN PRISON FOR CLAIMING RELATIVE PLANNED SHOOTINGS. The AP (6/27) reports that Mohomed Abdouni of Toledo, Ohio, "who falsely reported a planned shooting, prompting extra police security at several churches and synagogues, has been sentenced to spend four months in jail for the hoax." Abdouni "told the court he was drunk and used poor judgment when he told the FBI in January that a relative planned to travel from Columbus to Toledo to shoot people at a church."

National Security News:

US OFFICIALS: "ACTIVE PREPARATIONS" PROMPTED TRUMP'S WARNING TO SYRIA OVER CHEMICAL WEAPONS. The White House's warning late Monday night that the Syrian regime will "pay a heavy price" if it conducts another chemical weapons attack received extensive television coverage, including nearly seven minutes from the networks. Reports suggested the "ominous" warning is a "red line" for the Administration, and reported that it caught some Administration officials off guard.

The CBS Evening News (6/27, story 5, 2:05, Mason, 11.17M) reported Trump "appears have drawn his own red line over chemical weapons in Syria" after new intelligence indicated activity at Shayrat Airfield, "the same base from which the Syrian regime launched a deadly poison gas attack in April. ... According to Pentagon officials, an aircraft shelter, which once housed the Syrian jet that carried out the chemical attack, is once again in use. US intelligence has also picked up an increase in communications by the Syrian military unit responsible for chemical weapons." CBS added that Pentagon officials "cautioned the intelligence does not add up to a

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smoking gun. Still, the White House rushed out" a warning, with press secretary Sean Spicer issuing what ABC World News Tonight (6/27, story 5, 2:20, Llamas, 14.63M) called an "ominous late night statement" on Monday, saying "the United States has identified potential preparations for another chemical weapons attack," and adding, "If Mr. Assad conducts another mass murder attack using chemical weapons, he and his military will pay a heavy price." ABC (Vega) said President Trump has so far not commented on the matter, and Spicer's warning "seemed to catch a number of Administration officials completely off guard."

The AP (6/27, Burns) likewise says the "overnight White House threat caught many in Trump's own administration by surprise. Several State Department officials typically involved in coordinating such announcements said they were caught off guard, and it appeared the underlying intelligence information was known only to a small group of senior officials."

CNN's Situation Room (6/27, 554K) reported the President's warning "was closely held until the last minute." Officials from the White House and the Pentagon said Secretary of State Tillerson and Defense Secretary Mattis "knew about the intelligence, but many other officials were unaware." Fox News' Special Report (6/27, 1.53M) said there was "a bit of confusion earlier" on Tuesday about whether or not the State Department "was caught off guard by the President's statement, but White House officials insist every relevant agency was involved in this process from the very beginning."

The Wall Street Journal (6/27, Nissenbaum, Grove, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports US officials said they hoped the public threat would deter Assad from using such weapons, and Jared Malsin writes for TIME (6/27, 6.98M) that the warning "lays out a test of President Donald Trump's own still-developing policy on the crisis in Syria." Politico (6/27, Karni, Toosi, 2.46M) reports says the White House's "blunt, public warning" to Syria was "cobbled together in a series of hurried discussions, squeezed in between meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi – and kept among a small, tight circle of top officials." According to Politico, Mattis and Tillerson arrived at the White House "late Monday afternoon, ahead of the Rose Garden ceremony" with Modi, and were "informed of Trump's plan to issue a public warning." National security adviser McMaster – who had already been briefed – along with Mattis, Tillerson, and "a few other top officials," had the opportunity to "work the language" of the statement, in between Modi meetings.

Reuters (6/27, Mason, Solovyov) reports Pentagon spokesman Capt. Jeff Davis said the activity at the Syrian airfield occurred during "the past day or two," but did not indicate how the US collected its intelligence. The Washington Post (6/27, Loveluck, Lamothe, Nakashima, 11.43M), however, reports a "US intelligence analyst said Tuesday that US officials have been monitoring the movements of senior personnel from "Branch 450" of the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center in recent weeks as those figures have visited known and suspected chemical weapons production facilities."

CNN's Situation Room (6/27, 554K) showed Ambassador Haley saying, "I believe the goal at this point is not just to send Assad a message, but to send Russia and Iran a message that if this happens again, we are putting you on notice." Townhall (6/27, Brown, 402K) also reports Haley's comments. Kevin Corke reported on Fox News' Special Report (6/27, 1.53M) that the "statement from the White House was unmistakably direct, putting leaders in Damascus, Tehran, and Moscow on notice." CNN's Situation Room (6/27, 554K) showed Sebastian Gorka, deputy assistant to the President, saying the "bottom line is when the President draws a red line, he means it. He took action with those 59 cruise missiles. Now, he sends a very clear message. We know what you are doing and you should not do it, otherwise there will be consequences." The Hill (6/27, Bowden, 1.25M) reports Gorka's comments.

The Los Angeles Times (6/27, Bennett, Bierman, 4.52M) says the Administration "sent the kind of dire warning...that requires a credible messenger to have a receptive national and foreign audience. Yet the initial bafflement among US defense officials after the warning came late Monday, coupled with the simultaneous distraction of President Trump's unrelated tweets, by

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Tuesday seemed to undercut the seriousness of the charge."

NBC Nightly News (6/27, story 4, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported Syria "seemed to thumb its nose at the US," and Russia "had its own warning for the US. A top official there calling America's statement an 'unprecedented provocation.'" The Washington Times (6/27, Muñoz, 272K) says Russian "condemnation of the White House's unprecedented warning to Syria...was swift and harsh, with the Kremlin accusing the Trump administration of instigating violence against the regime in Damascus." Fox News' Special Report (6/27, 1.53M) reported Russia's statement "drew criticism at the State Department." Spokeswoman Heather Nauert was shown saying, "Are we supposed to buy what the Syrians are saying that there are no chemical weapons preparations underway? Because in the past, we know they have killed their own people, women, and children. If they say they are not making preparations, I'm not certain we are going to buy that."

Sen. Chris Coons said on CNN's Situation Room (6/27, 554K) that he is "encouraged by the engagement that President Trump has shown," but also expressed concerned that the Administration "lack[s] a clear strategy." Coons similarly said earlier on MSNBC's Morning Joe (6/27, 270K), "Frankly, this threat of renewed action against Assad for his potential use of chemical weapons again his own people is a reminder that we are still waiting for a strategy from President Trump about how we're going to conduct both the war against ISIS and whether he will conduct any further strikes against Assad."

Sen. Angus King said on CNN's Situation Room (6/27, 554K) said Trump is "in the same box President Obama was in some time ago," because he's "committed to some kind of, as he said, 'heavy consequence,' serious response." Rep. Jim Himes said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (6/27, 270K), "This is really critical because the President of the United States threatened a war, and as a member of Congress, it is really, really important that the American people be reminded...that the President of the United States cannot go to war without congressional authorization unless we have been attacked."

RESIDENTS NEAR RAQQA LOSING FAITH DESPITE US HELP. The CBS Evening News' (6/27, story 6, 2:10, Mason, 11.17M) Holly Williams met with US soldiers positioned "just outside" Raqqa, where US-backed forces have surrounded ISIS forces in their self-proclaimed capital. Williams says that while nearby villagers are "grateful for the American help," there is "very little optimism. Nobody here would speak to us on camera because they still have family members living under ISIS control, and they're frightened of retribution. But off camera, they told us they have no running water, very little food, and their children are illiterate because the schools have been closed for five years. America's attempts to win hearts and minds in the Middle East have often been troubled, and after half a decade of civil war, Syria's fractures may be beyond repair."

YAZIDI MP TELLS IRAQI PARLIAMENT OF ISIS TORTURE. The Washington Times (6/27, Chasmar, 272K) reports that a Yazidi member of Iraqi's parliament "described some of the horrific atrocities committed by Islamic State terrorists against her people in the war-torn region." Vian Dakhil, the Iraqi parliament's only female Yazidi member, said "thousands of Yazidi women and young boys and girls have been killed or kidnapped by the Islamic State...and bred to become sex slaves or suicide bombers."

"OFFICIALS": TRUMP DISAPPOINTED WITH CHINA'S INACTION ON NORTH KOREA, CONSIDERING TRADE ACTIONS. Three "senior Administration officials" told Reuters (6/27, Holland) President Trump is increasingly frustrated with China over its inaction on North Korea and bilateral trade issues. As a result, they said Trump is considering a range of trade actions against China, including tariffs on steel imports. However, Reuters says it's unclear whether the President actually would take these steps, especially as the officials said there's no consensus yet on the way forward. Reuters says the death of American university student Otto Warmbier last week, after his release from 17 months of detention in Pyongyang, has made the Administration's approach to North Korea more complicated.

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WPost: Ford's Production Shift To China Teaches Administration Economics Lessons. The Washington Post (6/27, 11.43M) editorializes that there are two lessons to be taken from Ford Motor's decision to begin producing the Focus in China, not Mexico. First, "economic reality is stubborn," as Americans increasingly are able to indulge their preference for larger cars as prices plunge. This makes producing smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles at high-wage American factories unprofitable. As such, the Post praises Ford for calling President Trump's "dictatorial bluff." Second, "government subsidy can't overcome fundamental market dynamics either," as a Bush- and Obama-era subsidy Ford received to help produce fuel-efficient cars in the US was unable to keep Ford from sending production overseas. The Post then urges the federal government to "stop purporting to micromanage specific business-location decisions using either threats or bribes." Rather, Washington should "enhance business conditions generally – especially through corporate tax reform – so that the United States remains competitive with all the other places in the world where capital may freely locate."

SAUDI, QATARI MINISTERS FACE OFF OVER GULF NATIONS' DEMANDS. Reuters (6/27) reports Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir told reporters in Washington yesterday that there would be no negotiations over demands by Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states for Qatar to stop supporting terrorism. He added, "We made our point, we took our steps and it's up to the Qataris to amend their behavior and once they do things will be worked out but if they don't they will remain isolated." Reuters says Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met with Secretary of State Tillerson at the State Department yesterday. An Al Jazeera report quotes Al Thani as saying that the countries' claims "are not proved by evidence" and that "the demands must be realistic and enforceable and otherwise are unacceptable."

The Washington Post (6/27, Deyoung, 11.43M) characterizes the situation as Middle East officials "making their cases to a divided administration that has been unable to stop the turmoil in the strategic region." The Post says America "is a strategic partner of all involved": Saudi Arabia and the UAE participate in counterterror efforts and purchase defense items; Bahrain houses the US Navy's 5th Fleet; and Qatar hosts the regional headquarters of the US Central Command, with more than 10,000 American service members at an air base used to launch US operations in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

In a front-page story, the Washington Post (6/27, A1, Raghavan, Warrick, 11.43M) profiles 91-year-old, Egyptian-born Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a "uniquely dangerous" Qatari-based cleric and TV star who is "at the center of Qatar's worst-ever diplomatic crisis." The Post says that while Qaradawi has never been charged in a terrorist attack, the Gulf nations labeled him a terrorist last month and have since banned his books, blocked his broadcasts and attempted to remove his name from public buildings. In the Post's words, they accuse him of propagating "inflammatory words, amplified on a Qatar-owned TV network in a beguiling style likened by one Arab official to a "twisted version of 'The Daily Show.'"" The Post says that while the Gulf countries' demands on Qatar include shutting down the Al Jazeera new network and scaling back relations with Iran, "the bigger objective may well be to silence figures such as Qaradawi, who ranks No. 19 on the gulf Arabs' "terrorist" list but surpasses all others in his ability to sway Muslim opinion."

TRUMP TO MEET WITH NEW SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT THURSDAY. The New York Times (6/27, Landler, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that President Trump's "campaign to rein in North Korea is about to get a lot more complicated, as a progressive new leader in South Korea and fraying ties with China leave the United States with fewer partners to press Kim Jong-un on his nuclear or missile programs." Trump will "get a first taste of this less friendly landscape on Thursday," when he welcomes South Korea's newly elected president, Moon Jae-in, to the White House for dinner and an Oval Office meeting the next day. White House officials "hope to defuse any tensions by trying to build good personal rapport" between Trump and Moon.

North Korea Likens Trump's "America First" Policy To Nazism. The Washington Times

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(6/27, Chasmar, 272K) reports North Korean state media on Monday compared President Trump's "America First" policies to "modern-day Nazism." The Korean Central News Agency claimed that the "ferocious, brutal and chauvinistic nature" of the "American version of Nazism" had surpassed the brutality of Adolf Hitler, according to an article titled, "We Reject 'American-first Principle' – Nazism in the 21st Century."

PENCE: TRUMP-MODI MEETINGS "HISTORIC AND PRODUCTIVE." Reuters (6/27, Brunnstrom) reports Vice President Pence on Tuesday hailed a first meeting between President Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "historic and productive," and said Trump recognizes US ties with India as "one of the most important strategic relationships in the 21st century." Addressing the US-India Business Council a day after Trump's first meeting with Modi, Pence "stressed that India must continue to enact economic reforms to ensure the bilateral trade relationship was reciprocal," echoing remarks made by Trump Monday. The Vice President also "praised Modi's move to simplify his country's goods and services tax, to strengthen protection of intellectual property rights and to break down barriers to investment and market access."

The New York Times (6/27, Barry, Huang, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), meanwhile, reports that as "Indians savored Prime Minister Narendra Modi's effusive welcome in the White House Rose Garden this week, another, less friendly image kept stubbornly interfering. High in the hills of the Himalayas, Indian troops had halted a Chinese road-building project in a disputed border area," prompting Beijing to issue a complaint "just as Mr. Modi walked into a meeting in Washington with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis." The Times says the "interruption of diplomatic ceremonies by border flare-ups is a regular feature of the Indian-Chinese relationship," but to Indian analysts, the "outburst conveyed Beijing's dissatisfaction with President Trump's plans to carry forward the United States-India strategic maritime partnership" begun under President Obama.

STATE DEPT. DECLARES CHINA AMONG WORST HUMAN TRAFFICKERS. In what the New York Times (6/27, Harris, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) calls a "strongly worded" report issued Tuesday, the State Department said China is "among the world's worst offenders for allowing modern slavery to thrive within its borders." In its annual assessment of global efforts to end human trafficking, the State Department "dropped China to the lowest tier of its ranking this year, as it did with the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo." Ivanka Trump said "ending human trafficking is among the top priorities of the Trump administration." Ms. Trump joined Secretary of State Tillerson to release the report, "and he spoke with a passion rarely displayed during his early tenure in public office." Said Tillerson, "It is our hope that the 21st century will be the last century of human trafficking."

The Washington Free Beacon (6/27, Crabtree, 115K) warns that placing China on the list of worst offenders "could exacerbate tensions with Beijing" and could also "complicate efforts by the United States to persuade Beijing to help curb North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs." Politico (6/27, Tesfamichael, 2.46M) quotes Tillerson as saying China "has not taken serious steps to end its own complicity in trafficking," noting that "the North Korean regime receives hundreds of millions of dollars a year from the fruits of forced labor."

The Washington Post (6/27, Morello, 11.43M) reports that China "took umbrage at being lumped in the same category as North Korea and Syria." Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the US "was applying its own laws to China," and defended his country's efforts to combat trafficking and forced labor as "obvious for everyone to see."

Branstad Calls On China To Allow Nobel Laureate Medical Treatment Abroad. The AP (6/27, Brown) reports US Ambassador Terry Branstad on Wednesday called on China to allow Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo to receive treatment outside China after he was diagnosed with liver cancer while in prison for advocating democratic reforms. China should allow Liu to seek treatment elsewhere "if it would be of help," Branstad told reporters "at his first public appearance since arriving in Beijing this week." He added, "It's important that we work

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together between our two countries to address these human rights issues." Bloomberg News (6/27, 2.41M) calls Liu's case "a diplomatic test for the new American envoy."

In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/27, 11.43M) says Liu has "suffered unrelenting persecution and mistreatment" for the past two decades by the Chinese government. Now, Liu is suffering from liver cancer and Post calls on President Trump to demand that China release him to seek medical treatment in "a place of his own choosing."

Chinese Tycoon's Corruption Claims Reverberate Despite Censorship. The New York Times (6/27, Buckley, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that "officially, no one in China can watch when the exiled tycoon Guo Wengui appears on banned websites to cheerfully lob incendiary allegations of corruption and skulduggery at the top ranks of the Communist Party. Unofficially, though, many people here in Beijing are riveted." Over a week ago, Guo "escalated his campaign with a fresh batch of sensational — and unproven — charges" against Wang Qishan, "the party leader who has directed the anticorruption drive that is the signature achievement" of President Xi Jinping's first five years in power. The government has "declined to comment on the allegations," but the Times says it is "near impossible to hold a private conversation with anyone" in Beijing "who takes an interest in politics without talk turning to Mr. Guo and his unverified insider tales of elite corruption and power plays."

MACRON INVITES TRUMP TO ATTEND BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION. The AP (6/27, Corbet) reports French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday invited President Trump to attend a Bastille Day celebration next month "to celebrate the arrival 100 years ago of the American troops who fought alongside the French during World War I." The invitation to Trump and First Lady Melania Trump was extended Tuesday during a telephone conversation "to prepare for the two leaders' meeting during the G-20 summit in Germany on July 7-8." An official from Macron's office said the White House is "examining the feasibility of a Paris visit." The New York Times (6/27, Breeden, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) too says that it was "not immediately clear whether Mr. Trump would accept the invitation."

TRUMP, IRISH PM DISCUSS MIGRATION, BREXIT. Reuters (6/27) reports President Trump and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar spoke Tuesday by phone during which they discussed migration and Britain's exit from the EU, the Irish government said in a statement on Tuesday. "Particular topics discussed included migration, Brexit and the movement of goods and citizens across the border," the statement said.

IRAN ACCUSES US OF "BRAZEN" REGIME CHANGE PLAN. The AP (6/27, Lederer) reports Iran on Tuesday accused Secretary of State Tillerson of "a brazen interventionist plan" to change the current government in violation of international law and the UN Charter. Tillerson, the AP notes, said in a June 14 hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee that US policy is to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons "and work toward support of those elements inside of Iran that would lead to a peaceful transition of that government." Iran's Ambassador Gholamali Khoshroo said in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres circulated Tuesday that Tillerson's comments are also "a flagrant violation" of the 1981 Algiers Accords in which the US pledged "not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically or militarily, in Iran's internal affairs."

RUSSIAN DEPUTY FM TAPPED AS NEW US AMBASSADOR. The Washington Times (6/27, Boylan, Taylor, 272K) reports Russia's US Ambassador Sergey Kislyak — "a central character in the Russian election meddling saga" — has been recalled to Moscow, "but his replacement might prove problematic in his own way as the Trump administration tries to find a working relationship" with the Kremlin. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Antonov has been tapped to replace Kislyak, "a man Russia watchers say is a far more rigid follower of the Kremlin line" but also "an outspoken advocate for improving US-Russian relations, as long as Moscow doesn't have to bend too far."

HOUSE VOTES OVERWHELMINGLY TO BACK NATO MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT. The AP

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(6/27, Lardner) reports the House voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to approve a resolution reaffirming the US commitment to NATO's mutual defense pact. The House passed the measure in a 423-4 vote a month after President Trump "failed to explicitly state his support for Article 5 during a visit to NATO headquarters." The resolution sponsored by Speaker Ryan "also voices strong support for a decision made at a NATO summit in 2014 calling for each member to spend at least 2 percent of its nation's gross domestic product on defense by 2024."

MADURO WARNS OF WAR IF HE IS OVERTHROWN. Reuters (6/27) reports Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro warned Tuesday that he and his supporters "would take up arms" if his government was "violently overthrown by opponents who have been on the streets protesting for three months." Said Maduro, "I'm telling the world, and I hope the world listens after 90 days of protest, destruction and death. If Venezuela was plunged into chaos and violence and the Bolivarian Revolution destroyed, we would go to combat. We would never give up, and what couldn't be done with votes, we would do with weapons, we would liberate the fatherland with weapons." Maduro, the AP (6/27, Goodman) reports, also alleged Tuesday that a "stolen police helicopter fired on Venezuela's Supreme Court on Tuesday in what he called a thwarted 'terrorist attack' aimed at ousting him from power." The AP says the "confusing exchange" took place as Maduro was speaking live on state television.

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: FARC DISARMAMENT SIGNALS "NEW ERA" IN COLOMBIA. The New York Times (6/27, Casey, Daniels, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that as UN inspectors "slammed shut a shipping container filled with rifles," FARC fighters "cheered on Tuesday morning when their leader declared that they had laid down their arms after 52 years of guerrilla war." While it "may yet be some time before every weapon the rebels fired in Colombia is accounted for," the Times says the ceremony "signaled to the country" that FARC "would no longer threaten Colombians as it had for generations." The government "must now tackle a host of challenges under the complicated peace agreement with the FARC," including the establishment of special tribunals to settle war-crimes cases.

GOOGLE FINED RECORD $2.7 BILLION IN EU ANTITRUST RULING. Coverage of European regulators levying a $2.72 billion fine on Google for abuse of its dominance of the online search market generally characterized the decision as the latest in a series of clashes between the EU and American tech companies. ABC World News Tonight (6/27, story 8, 0:15, Llamas, 14.63M) reported Google has been "slapped with a record fine" after EU antitrust regulators accused the company of "unfairly favoring its own businesses and services when people use Google to shop online." NBC Nightly News (6/27, story 6, 1:45, Holt, 16.61M) said that after a seven-year investigation, the EU is "punishing Google for illegally ranking ads for its own shopping service ahead of competitors." European Commission Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager was shown saying, "Google has abused its market dominance." NBC News Business Corespondent Ali Velshi said, "The Europeans are saying to Google, you have got to find a way to make sure that when somebody searches, it's not just your stuff that shows up first." NBC's Jo Ling Kent added that Google "said it disagrees with the ruling," and according to Fox News' Special Report (6/27, 1.53M), the company "says it's considering" an appeal.

The AP (6/27, Liedtke, Cook) says that while the case "could be just the opening salvo in Europe's attempt to curb [Google's] clout" on the Continent, the crackdown likely won't affect the firm's products in the US or elsewhere. Still, the ruling "immediately triggered debate about whether European regulators were taking prudent steps to preserve competition or overstepping their bounds to save companies being shunned by consumers who have overwhelmingly embraced an alternative." The Wall Street Journal (6/27, Drozdiak, Schechner, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) focuses on the potential implications for other American tech firms, citing a legal scholar's opinion that the way Google changes its business model to comply with the EU ruling could have an impact on Amazon, Facebook, and other firms offering online search services.

The New York Times (6/27, Scott, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) explains that as a result of the

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"regulatory blow," Google must come up with proposals to guarantee that it treats competitors fairly when consumers use its search engine, and, if necessary, make further changes according to regulators' demands. However, Google "is likely to fiercely oppose such a remedy." As such, the firm could remove some of its specialized search services from Europe or return them to how they were before the investigation began. Regardless, the Times says that "analysts expect a protracted legal battle."

USA Today (6/27, Hjelmgaard, 5.28M) frames the situation as a reflection of the "stark contrast" between EU and US regulatory environments: in the US, "large technology firms are often seen as innovators, job creators and do not attract the same suspicion as they do in Europe." The Washington Post (6/27, Birnbaum, 11.43M) says "the ruling also raised question of how [the Administration] would respond to the broadside hit against one of the richest companies in the United States," given that President Trump "advocates a fierce America-first policy of trade protectionism."

BRAZIL'S TEMER CALLS CORRUPTION CHARGE "FICTION." Reuters (6/27, Brooks, Cascione) reports Brazilian President Michel Temer said Tuesday that a corruption charge filed against him Monday by Prosecutor General Rodrigo Janot was a "fiction" and that it would hurt his country's economic recovery and potentially halt reform efforts. Reuters explains that following Janot's charging Temer for arranging to receive millions of dollars in bribes, two-thirds of the House of Deputies must vote against Temer to allow the Supreme Court to try the leader. Though Temer's allies in the lower house say they have the votes needed to block the charge, Janot is "widely expected" to level new racketeering and obstruction of justice charges against the President in coming weeks, which would make for multiple House votes on a presidential trial. Reuters says whether the "deeply divided" Social Democracy Party, Brazil's third largest, sticks with Temer's coalition is a question "key" to his survival, as "many members [are] wanting to distance themselves from Temer to improve their re-election chances next year."

To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the website.

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Sender:	Cissna, Tiffany (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient	(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/06/28 05:57:00

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From:	Nielsen, Kirstjen (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Hoffman, Jonathan (b)(6) (b)(6) "Hamilton, Gene </O (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: Axios: Trump pitched Republican leaders on a solar-paneled border wall
Date:	2017/06/06 18:15:23
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Trump pitched Republican leaders on a solar-paneled border wall

In the meeting at the White House today with Republican Congressional leaders, President Trump spent some time talking up his latest idea for the border wall. According to 3 people with direct knowledge of the meeting, Trump floated the idea that the wall could be covered in solar panels and the electricity generated used to pay for the cost.

Trump said his vision was a wall 40 feet to 50 feet high and covered with solar panels so they'd be "beautiful structures," the people said. The President said that most walls you hear about are 14 feet or 15 feet tall but this would be nothing like those walls.Trump told the lawmakers they could talk about the solar-paneled wall as long as they said it was his idea. One person cautioned that the President wasn't presenting the solar-paneled wall as the definite solution.

Why this idea might come from: A proposal to cover the wall with solar panels was among those submitted when the U.S. requested designs earlier this year, according to the AP. Companies winning contracts and asked to build prototypes may be announced this month.

https://www.axios.com/trump-pitched-republican-leaders-on-a-solar-paneled-border-wall-2435037888.html

Sender:	Nielsen, Kirstjen (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	"Hoffman, Jonathan (b)(6) (b)(6) "Hamilton, Gene </((b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/06/06 18:15:22
Delivered Date:	2017/06/06 18:15:23

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From:	Morning Shift <morningshift@politico.com>
To:	"Stoddard, Kaitlin (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	POLITICO's Morning Shift: DOL budget blues — Splitting the baby — SCOTUS check-in
Date:	2017/06/07 10:12:32
Type:	Note

By Ted Hesson | 06/07/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Marianne LeVine, Mel Leonor and Ian Kullgren

DOL BUDGET BLUES: Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta will testify this morning before a House Appropriation subcommittee about the Labor Department budget in his first congressional appearance since his March confirmation hearing. Last month the White House proposed cutting the DOL budget by 20 percent, including a 36 percent reduction in training and employment services. The proposed cuts to worker training would appear to contradict Acosta's public endorsement of apprenticeship programs and President Donald Trump's pledge to champion the interests of blue-collar America.

Morning Shift expects Democrats and Republicans alike to give Acosta a hard time about the training cuts; unlike other DOL divisions, the agency's training and employment services division enjoys bipartisan support. The Trump budget also included a proposal to fund a paid parental leave program administered through the Labor Department's Unemployment Insurance System. It would provide six weeks' paid leave to both mothers and fathers, including adoptive parents. We'll be curious to see how that plays in the hearing.

Although the budget will be the main discussion point, Acosta will also likely face questions about his decision to allow the fiduciary rule to take effect on Friday. The rule requires that broker dealers consider only their client's best interest (not commissions and fees) when providing retirement advice. The hearing begins at 10 a.m. in Rayburn 2358-C. Tune in here.

GOOD MORNING. It's Wednesday, June 7, and this is Morning Shift, POLITICO's daily tipsheet on employment and immigration policy. Send tips, exclusives, and suggestions to thesson@politico.com, mlevine@politico.com, mleonor@politico.com, ikullgren@politico.com and tnoah@politico.com. Follow us on Twitter at @tedhesson, @marianne_levine, @MelLeonor, @IanKullgren and @TimothyNoah1.

TRUMP ADMIN TALKS H-1B OVERHAUL: The White House has been quietly working with the Justice Department on overhauling the H-1B program to better adhere to the administration's "Buy American, Hire American" order, sources told POLITICO Playbook.

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The federal government is considering forcing companies seeking employees under the H-1B visa program to advertise the jobs online first and hire U.S. workers before foreigners - even for these high-tech roles. The Trump administration is also discussing reducing the cap and duration for these visas, which would, in effect, make it more costly for companies to bring foreign workers from overseas.

Other regulations include forcing H-1B employers to submit a report every six months on duties performed by the foreign worker. The administration could also seek to cut back "optional practical training," which currently allows STEM graduates to work in the U.S. for three years after graduation. The Justice Department and the White House did not respond to a request for comment.

SPLITTING THE BABY: The conservative American Enterprise Institute and the liberal Brookings Institution have collaborated on a compromise plan for paid family leave. It grants eight weeks' leave to mothers and fathers with 70 percent wage replacement up to $600 a week.

The proposal represents a middle ground between Bernie Sanders' campaign plan, which called for 12 weeks' paid leave, and President Donald Trump's six-week plan. It would be paid for through an increase in payroll taxes and reductions elsewhere in the budget.

"None of us found this compromise entirely to our liking," the think-tankers wrote. "A majority of the group would have supported something more generous. A minority wanted to limit any new benefit to something like $300 a week and to make it available to low-income families only. But in these partisan times, we felt an obligation to work toward a compromise that all of us could support to some extent." Read the report here.

SCOTUS CHECK-IN: This week, Illinois workers delivered two petitions to the Supreme Court asking justices to consider cases that involve compelled union dues and membership. The first case, *Janus v. AFSCME*, has the potential to overturn a 1977 decision that sanctioned the collection of fees from union non-members by public sector unions. The worker in that case, Mark Janus, argues that being forced to pay fees to a union he chooses not to belong to violates his First Amendment rights. Unions answer that such fees are necessary to cover non-members' share of costs associated with collective bargaining. The filing tees up the court for the same issue it deadlocked on last year in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*. With Neil Gorsuch now on the court, it seems likely Janus will prevail.

The second case, *Hill v. SEIU*, challenges an Illinois law that assigns the Service Employees International Union as the exclusive representative of home and child care workers paid by the state through public assistance programs, often to take care of family members. The case isn't about non-members being required to pay mandatory fees - the Supreme Court rejected such fees for this class of providers in 2014's *Harris v. Quinn* . Now the union non-members in this case are arguing that merely "being forced to associate with SEIU and its advocacy" violates their First Amendment rights.

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NLRB RULE SURVIVES CHALLENGE: A decision by the National Labor Relations Board that requires employers to sometimes disclose to unions statements made by employees in confidence cleared a challenge in the D.C. Circuit Court on Tuesday.

The challenge was brought by Piedmont Gardens, a California nursing home found to have violated federal labor laws by withholding information it collected while investigating a worker who was accused of sleeping on the job. Piedmont eventually fired the employee, and the union sued for witness information and statements.

The NLRB ruled that it would not apply the new rule to Piedmont - relying on precedent that protects confidential statements - but the employer challenged the new rule anyway, arguing it could face unfair labor charges under a cease-and-desist order by the board. In an opinion written by Judge Merrick Garland, the D.C. Circuit ruled that the order applied only to violations outside the scope of the new rule - and refused to take up the challenge to the rule itself. Read the opinion here.

ROADS PAVED BY GOLDMAN: Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein sent out a tweet in step with the Trump administration's push this week for a $1 trillion infrastructure bankrolled largely by states, cities and corporations. "Arrived in China, as always impressed by condition of airport, roads, cell service, etc.," Blankfein tweeted. "US needs to invest in infrastructure to keep up!"

During his presidential campaign Trump portrayedBlankfein as part of a "global power structure that is responsible for the economic decisions that have robbed our working class, stripped our country of its wealth, and put that money into the pockets of a handful of large corporations and political entities," as Renae Merle points out in the Washington Post. "But Blankfein's most recent foray into social media is particularly interesting because New York-based Goldman Sachs has become a big player in the world of funding infrastructure projects," Merle explains. "Trump's infrastructure plan is being developed by a task force led by Goldman alum, Gary Cohn, who now serves as director of the National Economic Council."

Trump's infrastructure tour continues today with visits to Kentucky and Ohio. More on Goldman here.

TODAY: KELLY BACK TO THE HILL: DHS Secretary John Kelly testifies today before the House Homeland Security Committee on the White House fiscal year 2018 budget proposal and the department's reauthorization. The hearing will take place in House Capitol Visitor Center (HVC), Room 210. Watch it here.

SLOWDOWN FOR STARTUP? "A rule that would allow some startup founders to stay in the U.S. and build their companies has been sent to the Office of Management and Budget for further review - a move that suggests the rule may be postponed, withdrawn or amended before it goes into effect in July," the San Francisco Chronicle's Trisha Thadani reports.

"The International Entrepreneur Rule, the closest Silicon Valley has come to a 'startup visa,' was approved by the Department of Homeland Security during President Barack

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Obama's last few hours in office," Thadani writes. "The point of the rule was to give entrepreneurs who do not qualify for existing visa programs a chance to stay in the United States to grow their businesses." More here.

UBER ROUNDUP:

CLEANING HOUSE: Uber fired 20 employees Tuesday following an investigation into sexual harassment claims, Bloomberg's Eric Newcomer reports. The embattled rideshare company also hired at least two senior executives in an effort to reboot its corporate strategy and branding, according to Bloomberg.

"Law firm Perkins Coie LLP led the investigation, reviewing 215 human-resources claims; while it took no action in 100 instances, it's still probing 57 others," Newcomer reports. "Some of the people fired were senior executives, according to the person, who asked not to be identified discussing personnel matters. The company didn't name the employees who were let go.

"Aside from those fired, 31 employees are in counseling or training, while seven received written warnings from the company, an Uber spokesman said," according to Bloomberg. "The issues deal with harassment, discrimination, retaliation and other HR matters."

Uber hired two established female tech executives to join its executive team, "former Apple Inc. executive Bozoma Saint John as chief brand officer and Harvard Business School Professor Frances Frei as senior vice [president] for leadership and strategy," Bloomberg reports.

The findings from a separate sexual harassment probe led by former Attorney General Eric Holder went to a subcommittee within Uber's board of directors, Bloomberg reports, but a summary likely won't be made public until next week. More here.

IRKED WITH UBER: The city of San Francisco issued subpoenas to Uber and Lyft "for a broad scope of records on driving and business practices as part of an investigation to determine whether the ride-services companies have become a public nuisance," Reuters reported this week. "City Attorney Dennis Herrera said on Monday he was seeking records to investigate whether Uber and Lyft fail to adequately serve poor neighborhoods and the disabled and whether their drivers create hazards on the road." More here.

IF MEXICO WON'T PAY: During a meeting with congressional leaders on Tuesday afternoon, President Trump floated the idea that the border wall could be adorned with solar panels, POLITICO's Josh Dawsey and Rachael Bade report.

"It was unclear why Trump brought up the topic, but he presented the panels as a way to fund the wall, which is expected to cost billions of dollars, according to three people familiar with the conversation," POLITICO reports. "He didn't express certainty that it would happen - but that he'd heard it was a possible idea and wanted to see what others thought, said a senior official familiar with the White House meeting."

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The idea isn't as strange as it might sound. The Associated Press reported in April about one company's pitch for a solar-powered wall. "The panels would provide electricity for lighting, sensors and patrol stations along the wall," according to the AP. "Sales of electricity to utilities could cover the cost of construction in 20 years or less, according to the company. Power could also be sold to Mexico."

The bigger question, of course, is whether Trump will get funding for *any* sort of border wall. He's asking for $1.6 billion toward the project in the fiscal year 2018 spending bill, a fraction of the wall's estimated $20 billion cost. More from POLITICO here.

RUDY'S RECORDS: "The Justice Department is fighting a legal attempt to force disclosure of a campaign document that may have served as the basis for [Trump's] travel ban executive orders," POLITICO's Josh Gerstein reports.

"At issue is a policy memo former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani helped to craft last year in response to what he described as Trump's request for a way to carry out the Muslim ban he proposed, while doing so 'legally," writes Gerstein.

"Plaintiffs in a Detroit-based suit challenging Trump's travel ban orders are demanding the proposal the group produced in mid-2016," he writes. "Lawyers for the Arab-American Civil Rights League say the memo could shed light on whether the executive orders Trump issued in January and March were motivated by religious prejudice." More here.

CATCH AND RELEASE CONTINUES: The Trump administration has said it's ended so-called "catch and release" immigration policies that let recently arrested migrants go free. But Daniel Bible, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official in South Texas, told Reuters that they're taking the same approach when deciding who to release to the public.

"That's in large part because there are legal constraints on who can be detained and for how long, due to a shortage of beds and a court ruling limiting the stay of women and children in custody to 21 days," writes Julia Edwards Ainsley. "A separate court ruling limits detention time for immigrants whose countries refuse to repatriate them." More here.

FAMILY DETENTION PLEA TO IVANKA: Amnesty International sent a letter today to Ivanka Trump that urges the president's daughter to intervene in the cases of families detained in Pennsylvania's Berks County Residential Center. The organization argues detention "should be a last resort" and that children should only be detained in "exceptional circumstances."

"Infants, toddlers, children, mothers, fathers: At least 60 languish within Berks, some for more than 600 days," the letter reads. "Children have grown up there, learning to walk and celebrating multiple birthdays behind bars. Yet this is no place for children." Last month, Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) fiercely criticized the Trump administration for deporting a Honduran woman and her five-year-old son, both of whom had been held at the facility.

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"The gangs will target this mother and her child the moment they land in Honduras, yet Trump admin insists on this cruel policy," Casey tweeted at the time. Read the letter here.

CASTING CALLS: Broadway casting directors in search of a union contract enlisted support from actors this week under the hashtag #FairnessForCasting, Playbill reports. "Broadway casting directors joined Teamsters Local 817 in 2016, but the Broadway League has yet to negotiate a union contract with them," writes Playbill. "Without such a contract, casting directors are left to find health insurance on their own. Their employers also make no contributions toward their retirement." Among those joining the push were actors from *War Paint* and *Hamilton*.

FORMER DOL OFFICIAL TO MICROSOFT: Portia Wu, assistant secretary for the Employment and Training Administration under President Obama, will be director of workforce policy for Microsoft's government affairs team, the company announced Tuesday.

KUSHNER'S EB-5 DEBT: "The real estate company owned by the family of Jared Kushner, son-in-law and senior adviser to President Trump, is seeking $250 million to pay off its partners and lenders in a Jersey City apartment tower financed by Chinese investors through a program criticized as offering United States visas for sale," Jesse Drucker and Charles Bagli reported this week in the New York Times.

"The project was financed with about $190 million in loans, including $50 million through the EB-5 visa program," they write. "That program gives foreign investors preferential treatment in obtaining permanent residency, in exchange for investments of at least $500,000 in American development projects."

"Kushner Companies must repay a $140 million construction loan from CIT Group, which is due in September," the Times reports. "It also wants to pay off its EB-5 loans, which are all from Chinese investors, although the loans are not due for several years." More here.

COFFEE BREAK

- "White House won't say how much confidence Trump has in Attorney General Jeff Sessions," from The Wall Street Journal

- Trump's border wall collides with nature at Big Bend National Park," from USA Today

- "Report: 250,000 Minnesota hourly workers make minimum wage or less," from Fox 9

- "Undocumented immigrants steal millions in unemployment benefits with help from Chicago-area woman," from Newsweek

- "Second Circuit court invites EEOC's opinion on whether Title VII prohibits sexual orientation discrimination," from National Law Review

- "Mass. will 'absolutely' see $15 minimum wage," from Metro

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THAT'S ALL FOR MORNING SHIFT.

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GAO-OIG IN THE NEWS

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2017

These articles are highlighted to keep DHS leadership, our audit liaison community, and others across the Department informed about news being reported mentioning the U.S. Government accountability office (GAO) and/or the various federal Offices of Inspector general (OIG). While this service focuses mainly on DHS, it does include other GAO- and OIG-related information for cross-feed purposes. DHS-related articles appear first, followed by those from other parts of government.

The articles are sourced from: **DHS News Briefing**; **Politico**; **The Hill**; **Government Executive**; **Federal Times**; and, from time-to-time, other selected publications. Please send any questions, comments, or suggestions to the Departmental GAO-OIG Liaison mailbox: **GAO-OIG.Liaison@hq.dhs.gov**.

DHS-RELATED

CUSTOMS AND BORDER ENFORCEMENT

Donald Trump's Plan To Build A Solar Border Wall, Explained With Math

Vox, By Ruairí Arrieta-Kenna, July 20, 2017

Last week, President Donald Trump insisted that he really isn't joking about putting solar panels on the border wall he's promised to build between the United States and Mexico.

"There is a chance that we can do a solar wall. We have major companies looking at that. Look, there's no better place for solar than the Mexico border — the southern border," he said. "And there is a very good chance we can do a solar wall, which would actually look good."

When Trump first pitched the idea of a solar wall at a meeting with Republican Congress members at the White House in June, he claimed that the idea was his (it wasn't) and that the energy generated by the panels could cover the cost of the wall.

Now that it seems he really wants solar panels on there, we decided to do the math on this possibility of the wall "paying for itself." That would, theoretically, help him sell the plan to fiscal conservatives, among others. A border wall would be really, really expensive

As Vox's Dara Lind and Tara Golshan explained in May, Trump faces a multitude of obstacles in building more border wall (there are already 654 miles of fence and wall down there). Chief among them is convincing Congress to pay for it. While Trump maintains that he will somehow get Mexico to eventually pay for the wall, American taxpayers will have to foot the bill initially. The US-Mexico border fence stops while passing through farmland near Fort Hancock, Texas. Throughout vast stretches of West Texas, the current fencing starts and stops along the bank of the Rio Grande, which is often nearly drained due to irrigation for crops. Photo taken on October 14, 2016. John Moore/Getty Images

On July 11, Republicans in Congress released a bill that would allocate $1.6 billion to the Department of Homeland Security to begin construction of the physical barrier. But that's just a fraction of the $21.6 billion the DHS

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estimated in February would be needed to build a wall along the 1,250 miles of unfenced border. (Trump told reporters on July 13 that he now intends to build only 700 to 900 miles of "see-through" wall, but that would still cost roughly $12 billion to $15.5 billion, according to the February DHS estimates.) But a solar wall will pay for itself, right? Nope.

The idea to put solar panels on the wall seems to have originated in a Huffington Post article last December, but it gained greater traction after Gleason Partners submitted a prototype design in April to DHS's Customs and Border Protection.

In June, CPB announced plans to build four to eight different wall prototypes this year in San Diego. (It's not yet clear if Gleason's solar border wall will be one of those prototypes.)

But a back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that solar panels wouldn't come close to covering the cost for the 700 to 900 miles of wall Trump wants to build.

To simplify things, I'll give Trump the benefit of the doubt with a best-case scenario.

The average commercial solar panel is about 39 by 77 inches, and utility-scale solar arrays typically hold two rows of panels vertically. In a scenario with the maximum number of panels installed along the top of the wall (with no horizontal space between them), a 900-mile border would at most be able to accommodate 2,924,102 panels across its width.

The typical commercial solar panel has a capacity of up to 350 watts, so these nearly 3 million panels could make up a system of just over 1000 megawatts. But limited daylight hours and adverse weather conditions, such as extreme heat or excessive cloud shading, can cause solar panels to operate at less than maximum capacity. The average output capacity factor of solar panels in the US is around 20 percent.

Nevertheless, solar technology continues to improve, and the southwestern part of the United States is sunnier than average. Optimistically, let's assume solar panels atop a border wall would operate at an annual 30 percent capacity factor. The nearly 3 million panels would then generate upward of 2.7 terawatt-hours of electrical power per year.

Let's also say, for Trump's sake, that Mexico's electric utility would buy all the energy generated and pay for all the transmission infrastructure. The average retail price of electricity in the border states is about 11 cents per kilowatt-hour. Assuming that the energy generated by the border wall is sold at that retail rate (it would more likely be sold on the cheaper wholesale market and in Mexico, but we're giving Trump the best-case scenario here), the annual revenue would be about $300 million per year.

But with standard utility-scale solar installation costs as low as $1 per watt, the nearly 3 million panels would cost at least $1 billion. Even with the generous revenue estimate, it would take four years just to recuperate the installation costs of the panels.

Now, remember that 700 to 900 miles of new wall would cost approximately $12 billion to $15.5 billion to build. And this and the existing fencing would also need to be maintained. In 2009, the Government accountability office estimated that the current fencing along the border would need $6.5 billion for upkeep and repairs over the next 20 years (an annual average of $325 million). A much longer wall would cost even more than that, not to mention the additional operations and maintenance costs of the solar panels, which need to be cleaned, repaired, and replaced regularly.

So when all is said and done, it looks like the solar panels, estimated to bring in at most $300 million a year, would hardly make a dent in the wall's costs. The physical problems with a solar wall

According to KCET's Chris Clarke, who also tried to estimate the incredibly high cost of a solar wall, a version like the one Gleason Partners proposed would also be very technically difficult to build.

For starters, a wall is not an ideal frame for solar panels. Solar panels traditionally lay at a slight angle off the horizontal, such as on roofs or in large solar farms. Making the vertical part of a wall out of solar panels wouldn't make sense, since, after all, they must face the sun to convert its energy.

To account for this, Gleason, the prototype designer, proposed angling two sets of solar panels off the wall — one on the top, the other jutting from the middle to the ground, as pictured below. Gleason Partners

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However, solar panels in the Northern Hemisphere should point south to maximize time facing the sun. But in the case of a border wall, that means the most valuable parts of the wall, the solar arrays, would have to be displayed, unprotected, on the Mexican side. This would leave them open to almost certain vandalism and theft.

To maximize efficiency for capturing sunlight, a border wall could arrange panels from the top to the ground at an approximately 30-degree angle off the horizontal. But as Clarke points out, a structure like that would be easy to climb and more of a border ramp than a border wall, certainly not fulfilling its intended purpose. (It would also be difficult for a wall made of solar panels to be transparent. Donald Trump has said it should be to prevent sacks of drugs from being tossed over and hitting unassuming Americans.) The wall is unpopular anyway

Trump's border wall plan is already really unpopular. And putting solar panels on the border wall shouldn't make fiscal conservatives any more excited about this extremely expensive infrastructure project. And according to recent polling by Echelon Insights, it doesn't. The solar panel idea has also resulted in only slightly less opposition by Democrats, according to the same polling.

The green energy component has done little to mitigate concerns environmentalists have about the wall either. As Brett Hartl of the Center for Biological Diversity affirmed in a statement in June, "An ecological disaster with solar panels on top is still an ecological disaster. With solar panels on top."

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

GAO: TSA Doesn't Have Scientific Justification To Detect Terrorists Through Most Behavioral Tics

USA Today, By Bart Jansen, July 20, 2017

The Transportation Security Administration doesn't have scientific justification for most of the behavioral clues that officers use to identify potential terrorists, a government watchdog reported Thursday.

Despite a lack of scientific validation, TSA told the Government accountability office that some suspicious actions, such as a traveler having wires hanging out of clothing, can't be ignored.

Even so, TSA has blended what used to be thousands of behavior-detection officers into the general workforce in recent years to bolster checkpoint screening while still keeping an eye on suspicious actions.

TSA's behavior detection program has been contentious for years. GAO and the inspector general for the Department of Homeland Security have questioned the lack of scientific justification for singling out suspicious behavior to identify terrorists or criminals.

TSA had 3,131 officers in its behavior-detection program in 2013 when a critical GAO report was released that questioned the program's reliability.

By 2016, TSA reduced the program to $186 million for 2,393 officers at 87 airports. Those officers were trained to spot behavior such as how a traveler swallowed or how open a person's eyes were as one indicator for whether further scrutiny was warranted.

Critics such as Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the top Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee, repeatedly questioned whether behavior detection was reliable or possibly concealed racial harassment. But TSA said officers were targeting behavior rather than race.

GAO's 16-page report Thursday checked 178 sources that TSA submitted to justify behavior detection. Of those, 137 were news stories or opinion pieces that GAO dismissed. Other sources were studies that didn't conduct original research.

The 20 reports with original research couldn't support 28 of the 36 suspicious behaviors that TSA targeted, according to GAO.

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"TSA does not have valid evidence that most of its indicators in its revised list of behavioral indicators can be used to identify individuals who may pose a threat to aviation security," said the GAO report from Nancy Kingsbury and Jennifer Grover.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees TSA, responded that the behavior-detection program was eliminated before this fiscal year, and officers were integrated into the checkpoint workforce.

But TSA cited a 2013 report from Rand National Defense Research Institute that found "there is current value and unrealized potential for using behavioral indicators as part of a system to detect attacks."

For example, wires hanging out of a person's clothing might be signs of a suicide bomber, according to the department and the FBI.

"Behavior detection is a non-invasive technique that increases the potential of an employee to engage passengers and detect potentially dangerous individuals, terrorists and criminals," Jim Crumpacker, the department's liaison to GAO, wrote in reply to the report.

NON-DHS-RELATED

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Space Corps proponents: 'The time for study is over'

The Hill, By Rebecca Kheel, July 19, 2017

Proponents of creating a new branch of the military dedicated to space said Wednesday the "time for study is over" after a House Armed Services Committee briefing on national security in space.

"The time for study is over: We must now act to effect change based on the repeated recommendations," Reps. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) and Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.), the chairman and ranking member of the panel's strategic forces subcommittee, said in a statement.

"The consensus of the prior studies and reviews is that we must fix these problems. We believe the Space Corps is that fix. The status quo and further delay are indefensible."

In their committee roles, the pair have shepherded the plan to create a Space Corps that passed the House last week as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The Space Corps would be focused on addressing threats from countries such as Russia and China to U.S. assets in space, such as satellites.

The proposal has elicited huge opposition from the Pentagon, including from Defense Secretary James Mattis, Joint Chiefs Vice Chairman Gen. Paul Selva, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.

Opponents argue that not enough study has been done on the issue and that not enough time has been given to allow the Pentagon's current efforts to reform its approach to space to work.

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But proponents, such as Rogers and Cooper, argue the bureaucracy of the Pentagon has historically been resistant to change that was ultimately for the better, such as the creation of the Air Force.

Wednesday's briefing, which was open to the full Armed Services Committee, covered information from the Government accountability office (GAO) about "historical perspectives of leadership and acquisition challenges in national security space," according to the committee release.

It follows a classified briefing from the intelligence community Tuesday, as well as several subcommittee sessions on the issue.

"We believe it is imperative that members understand the challenges we are facing in space from our adversaries and from our own self-imposed impediments like the current organization of space within DOD and its space capability acquisition system," Rogers and Cooper said. "The GAO provided a historical perspective on the remarkable overlap on the recommendations to fix the national security space enterprise."

According to the release, reports, studies and commissions dating back to 1982 have identified fragmented leadership and lack of accountability as major causes of systemic failures in space acquisition. Those failings include billions of dollars of cost overruns because the "acquisition system is so complicated that no one is in charge," the release says.

USS Ford will join the fleet, but deployment is 4 years away

Washington Post, By Associated Press, July 20, 2017

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy's newest aircraft carrier will officially join the fleet Saturday at a commissioning overseen by President Donald Trump. But four years will likely pass before the ship's first deployment.

The USS Gerald R. Ford still must go through various tests and trials of its cutting-edge technology, including new systems to launch and land fighter jets. A Government accountability office report released this month said the Navy could spend another $780 million preparing the $12.9 billion carrier for battle.

Named after the country's 38th president, the ship is the first of the new Ford class of aircraft carrier. The vessel can carry more planes and operate with several hundred fewer sailors. Flying missions are expected to increase by a third.

The commissioning will be held at Naval Station Norfolk.

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RECENTLY ON PRO CYBERSECURITY

Politico, By Tim Starks, July 20, 2017

Senior Trump adviser Jared Kushner will appear before the Senate Intelligence Committee next week as part of its Russia investigation. … Donald Trump Jr. and former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort will be called to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee as part of its Russia probe. … Robert Storch, Trump's nominee for NSA inspector general, told senators he would scrutinize the spy agency's procedures for vetting contractors. … The White House is worried Moscow might retaliate after the General Services Administration made it harder for federal agencies to buy products from Russian cybersecurity company Kaspersky Lab.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Trump administration pulls health law help in 18 cities

Washington Post, By Carla K. Johnson, July 20, 2017

CHICAGO — President Donald Trump's administration has ended Affordable Care Act contracts that brought assistance into libraries, businesses and urban neighborhoods in 18 cities, meaning shoppers on the insurance exchanges will have fewer places to turn for help signing up for coverage.

Community groups say the move, announced to them by contractors last week, will make it even more difficult to enroll the uninsured and help people already covered re-enroll or shop for a new policy. That's already a concern because of consumer confusion stemming from the political wrangling in Washington and a shorter enrollment period. People will have 45 days to shop for 2018 coverage, starting Nov. 1 and ending Dec. 15. In previous years, they had twice that much time.

Some see it as another attempt to undermine the health law's marketplaces by a president who has suggested he should let "Obamacare" fail. The administration, earlier this year, pulled paid advertising for the sign-up website HealthCare.gov, prompting an inquiry by a federal inspector general into that decision and whether it hurt sign-ups.

Now insurers and advocates are concerned that the administration could further destabilize the marketplaces where people shop for coverage by not promoting them or not enforcing the mandate compelling people to get coverage. The administration has already threatened to withhold payments to insurers to help people afford care, which would prompt insurers to sharply increase prices.

"There's a clear pattern of the administration trying to undermine and sabotage the Affordable Care Act," said Elizabeth Hagan, associate director of coverage initiatives for the liberal advocacy group Families USA. "It's not letting the law fail, it's making the law fail."

Two companies — McLean, Virginia-based Cognosante LLC and Falls Church, Virginia-based CSRA Inc. — will no longer help with the sign-ups following a decision by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services officials not to renew a final option year of the vendors' contracts. The contracts, awarded in 2013, were never meant to be long term, said CMS spokeswoman Jane Norris in an email.

"These contracts were intended to help CMS provide temporary, in-person enrollment support during the early years" of the exchanges, Norris said. Other federally funded help with enrollment will continue, she said, including a year-round call center and grant-funded navigator programs. The existing program is "robust" and "we have the on-the-ground resources necessary" in key cities, Norris said.

But community advocates expected the vendors' help for at least another year. "It has our heads spinning about how to meet the needs in communities," said Inna Rubin of United Way of Metro Chicago, who helps run an Illinois health access coalition.

CSRA's current $12.8 million contract expires Aug. 29. Cognosante's $9.6 million contract expires the same date.

Together, they assisted 14,500 enrollments, far less than 1 percent of the 9.2 million people who signed up through HealthCare.gov, the insurance marketplace serving most states. But some advocates said the groups focused on the healthy, young adults needed to keep the insurance markets stable and prices down.

During the most recent open enrollment period, they operated in the Texas cities of Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, McAllen and El Paso; the Florida cities of Miami, Tampa and Orlando; Atlanta; northern New Jersey; Phoenix; Philadelphia; Indianapolis; New Orleans; Charlotte, North Carolina; Cleveland and Chicago.

The insurance exchanges, accessed by customers through the federal HealthCare.gov or state-run sites, are a way for people to compare and shop for insurance coverage. The health law included grant money for community organizations to train people to help consumers apply for coverage, answer questions and explain differences between the insurance policies offered.

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In Illinois, CSRA hired about a dozen enrollment workers to supplement a small enrollment workforce already in the state, Rubin said. The company operated a storefront enrollment center in a Chicago neighborhood from November through April.

"It was a large room in a retail strip mall near public transit with stations set up where people could come in and sit down" with an enrollment worker, Rubin said.

CSRA spokesman Tom Doheny in an email said the company "is proud of the work we have accomplished under this contract." He referred other questions to federal officials.

Cognosante worked on enrollment in nine cities in seven states, according to a June 6 post on the company's website. The work included helping "more than 15,000 Texas consumers" and staffing locations "such as public libraries and local business offices." A Cognosante spokeswoman referred questions to federal officials.

The health care debate in Congress has many consumers questioning whether "Obamacare" still exists, community advocates said.

"What is the goal of the Trump administration here? Is it to help people? Or to undermine the Affordable Care Act?" said Rob Restuccia, executive director of Boston-based Community Catalyst, a group trying to preserve the health care law.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Dem to seek investigation into Interior staff reassignments

The Hill, By Timothy Cama, July 20, 2017

The top Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee wants an investigation into an Interior Department employee's claim that he was reassigned due to his work on climate change.

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) said at a Thursday hearing that she would officially ask Interior's inspector general to look into the matter.

Her request came a day after Joel Clement, the former director of Interior's Office of Policy Analysis, wrote a Washington Post op-ed saying he was improperly reassigned to an accounting position because of his work on helping Alaskan communities cope with climate change.

"We need to make sure that those individuals who have the experience, who are involved in the science, are going to continue to fulfill those responsibilities," Cantwell said at an unrelated hearing about nominees to Interior and the Department of Energy.

"Sure, there are always reorganizations at an agency," she said, adding that employees with the necessary experiences should stay in the jobs their suited for.

Clement also filed a complaint against political appointees, saying his reassignment was the result of illegal political interference.

Federal agencies are allowed to reassign employees in Senior Executive Service positions like Clement, with some limitations.

"Personnel moves amongst the Senior Executive Service are being conducted to better serve the taxpayer and the department's operations through matching Senior Executive skill sets with mission and operational requirements," Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said Wednesday.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Your income paid for welfare fraud from sea to shining sea

The Hill, By John DeMaggio, opinion contributor, July 20, 2017

Most of us know of U.S. citizens who are truly in need of public assistance. They range from the orphans to the handicapped to the elderly. However, do recent events show that the unscrupulous with avaricious intentions have no trouble swindling the system to gain financial advantages?

Last week, The Hill reported:

"The Department of Justice (DOJ) has charged more than 400 people, including 56 doctors, with healthcare fraud that cost taxpayers approximately $1.3 billion, Attorney General announced on Thursday."

A DOJ press release specified 413 people were charged. One of the individual frauds totaled $56 million and another $164 million. Additionally, "…295 healthcare providers are being suspended or banned from federal health programs as a result of the crackdown."

This comes after multiple reports over the last week of investigators uncovering massive fraud in the federal and state government's welfare programs.

On July 12, NJ.com reported in a piece titled "12 more Lakewood residents charged in massive welfare fraud sweep" that "the recent charges bring the total amount of illegally obtained benefits to well over $2 million. Twenty-six Lakewood residents have been charged since June 26 in the joint federal, state and county crackdown." The 12 consisted of six couples charged with stealing between $62,746 and $74,960 over a three to five year period.

One only has to look at their own yearly income tax payment to put these frauds in prospective and ask how much of my tax payments are going to finance these frauds?

The day before, on July 11, the Dallas Morning News reported "Alexis C. Norman, 46, is charged with running an operation involving more than $810,000 in false Medicaid claims." This is all the more sensational since Norman was in federal prison while she perpetrated these frauds.

A week earlier, on July 5, The Hudson Valley (New York) News reported that "Nearly two dozen people from Orange and Dutchess counties have been accused in a welfare fraud sweep … 23 people stole a combined $220,000 in welfare benefits." District Attorney Dave Hoovler said this seventh sweep in Orange County in recent years "has busted nearly 200 people for welfare fraud since 2014, thanks to a county special investigations unit that routinely checks individual cases for red flags. The work has so far recovered more than $500,000."

These last few are just three jurisdictions, Dallas, Texas; Lakewood, N.J.; and Orange County, N.Y.! According to the U.S. Geological Service there are 3141 counties in the 50 states and the District of Columbia not counting the U.S. territories. Could one conclude similar investigations identifying millions of dollars in frauds might result from comparable investigations in each county?

All of these reports indicate that the perpetrators were able to accomplish the frauds by simply falsifying their original applications for assistance.

These reports come on the heels of the Government accountability office (GAO) May 2017 report on the Federal Communication Commission's Lifeline program, more commonly referred to as the "Obamaphones," issued last month entitled, "Additional Action Needed to Address Significant Risks in FCC's Lifeline Program."

The GAO found:

"Lifeline's structure relies on over 2,000 Eligible Telecommunication Carriers that are Lifeline providers to implement key program functions, such as verifying subscriber eligibility. This complex internal control environment is susceptible to risk of fraud, waste, and abuse as companies may have financial incentives to enroll as many customers as possible."

Could we call this an example of the proverbial fox guarding the hen house?

It continues, "subsequent to our 2010 report, which found that Lifeline had limited abilities to detect and prevent ineligible and duplicate subscribers from enrolling in the program… (GAO) found a total of 5,510 potential internal duplicates…" and "…identified 6,378 individuals reported as deceased who are receiving Lifeline benefits…The date

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of death for each of these individuals preceded the Lifeline enrollment or recertification date by at least 1 year." Further details revealed that audits of the telecommunications providers, who determine eligibility, averaged less than 0.17 percent between 2007 and 2013. That is 99.8 percent without oversight!

These reports all come to us from diverse sources within weeks. When taken collectively does this indicate that there is a serious lack of oversight in these programs across the nation with little to no scrutiny of original applications?

It is very doubtful if any investigations will result in any more than a fraction of the illegal payments returned to the government. Coupling this with the cost of the investigations, prosecutions, appeals and incarnation to our federal, state and local governments, wouldn't be more cost effective to have an effective approval process at the front end, when these fraudulent applications are submitted? So why have our elected officials chosen not to put such systems in place when initiating these programs?

While you sit down to write your checks to pay your taxes, should you be wondering how many are receiving checks funded with your earnings due to their falsifying applications with negligible government oversight?

Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner observed in "Reckless Endangerment" how lobbyists shifted "… the power of oversight to congressional subcommittees, run by members who could be easily swayed by the company's lobbying efforts and campaign contributions."

As our nation argues the future of healthcare, are we ensuring that these proposed bills in Congress include instituting adequate approval processes and oversight to protect our tax funds?

It is also the start of the U.S. government budget cycle. As the government begins the budget process, is our Congress ensuring that there are adequate safeguards in the social programs to prevent these frauds before the funds are distributed and lost forever?

John M. DeMaggio is a retired special agent in charge and served as a captain in the U.S. Navy. The above is the opinion of the author and is not meant to reflect the opinion of the U.S. Navy or the U.S. government.

Jeff Sessions is helping the police to take your stuff away

Washington Post, By Robert Johnson and Nick Sibilla, July 20, 2017

Surveys show 84 percent of Americans oppose it. Both the Republican and Democratic party platforms condemn it. More than 230 newspaper editorials have denounced it. And in the last three years alone, 24 states have taken steps to restrict it. So why is Attorney General Jeff Sessions looking to increase it?

We're talking about civil forfeiture, a legal tool that allows law enforcement agencies to confiscate property — cash, cars, homes, even businesses — without convicting anyone of a crime. Mere suspicion is sufficient to justify a seizure. Then, property owners must prove their own innocence to get their property back.

With few safeguards for the innocent, civil forfeiture is one of the greatest assaults today on private property rights and a fair, impartial justice system – both foundations of a healthy democracy.

Public outrage has grown as stories of abuse have proliferated. Just last year, for instance, The Post reported how police in Muskogee County, Okla., seized more than $50,000 from the manager of a Burmese Christian rock band. That included money intended for an orphanage in Thailand, still sealed in donation envelopes.

Or consider Chris and Markela Sourovelis. The Philadelphia district attorney sought to forfeit their family home because their son was caught selling $40 worth of drugs.

Outrage has generated reform. State legislatures across the country have passed measures to shore up property rights, and a full 14 states now require a criminal conviction to forfeit property. Blue states and red states alike — in every region of the country — have enacted reforms.

Now those reforms are under attack. On Wednesday, Sessions announced a new policy that will make it easier for state and local law enforcement to sidestep state-level protections for property owners.

The new Justice Department policy expands a federal forfeiture program called "equitable sharing." Equitable sharing allows state police to seize property and send it to federal prosecutors for forfeiture under federal law, even

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if it could not be forfeited under state law. State police then get to keep up to 80 percent of the proceeds, creating a financial incentive to take property. In other words, equitable sharing encourages police and prosecutors to become bounty hunters, even if that would circumvent state law.

The decision to expand equitable sharing is especially egregious because equitable sharing has long undermined state efforts to protect citizens from abuse. In a searing exposé of equitable sharing in 2014, The Post identified nearly 62,000 cash seizures worth more than $2.5 billion, all made "without search warrants or indictments." Their investigation also found more than 500 task forces and departments that "seized the equivalent of 20 percent or more of their annual budgets."

Largely in response to such criticisms, then-Attorney General Eric Holder took steps in January 2015 to rein in equitable sharing. Those reforms were themselves imperfect, but they did make a difference. The Drug Enforcement Agency — which pursues the most forfeiture cases through the Justice Department — saw cash seizures drop by half. Now, Wednesday's policy reverses Holder's reforms.

Announcing the change, Sessions promised "safeguards" to protect innocent property owners. But the safeguards included in the policy amount to little more than a promise by law enforcement to be more careful.

The problem, of course, is that these "safeguards" will be implemented by the same law enforcement agencies that stand to benefit financially from forfeitures. Indeed, they will be implemented by the same agencies that have engaged in abuse in the past.

Promises of self-restraint are well and good, but in the end the only real safeguard would be judicial oversight. Before police and prosecutors can take property, they should have to convict someone of a crime.

Of course, *that* safeguard is nowhere to be found in the new Justice Department policy. To the contrary, the directive says the government can continue to forfeit "personal residences" even "where title or ownership lies with persons not implicated in illegal conduct."

To justify the change, the attorney general repeatedly stressed the importance of going after "criminals." But, by definition, *civil* forfeiture targets people who have not been convicted of anything.

Everybody agrees that criminals should not be allowed to keep their ill-gotten gains. That aim can be accomplished using *criminal* forfeiture, under which property is forfeited only following a conviction.

As a law enforcement tool, civil forfeiture is worse than ineffective — it actually encourages police to focus on raising money at the expense of fighting crime. A report from the Justice Department's own inspector general looked at a sample of 100 seizures by the DEA and found that more than half were not related to any identifiable criminal investigation or prosecution. In other words, police took the cash and, oftentimes, let the purported "criminals" walk free.

With the attorney general's announcement, the onus now shifts to Congress to act. The Fair Act, introduced by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), would eliminate equitable sharing once and for all. Another proposal, the Due Process Act, does not go so far but would still put in place meaningful procedural safeguards.

Civil forfeiture has no place in a free country. State legislatures are taking steps to uphold property rights. The question is, will the federal government work with them or against them?

LOCAL NEWS

New Orleans official warns of lead threats in tap water

Washington Post, By Kevin McGill, July 20, 2017

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans inspector general says the city hasn't adequately warned residents that ongoing street repairs and water system improvements could result in temporarily high lead levels in some buildings' tap water.

Inspector general Ed Quatrevaux's (KWAH'-treh-voh's) latest report says some old city water lines — and lines on private properties — are made of lead, which can affect the brain and nervous system when ingested. Chemicals

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added to the water form a protective coating in those pipes. But Quatrevaux cites experts who say disturbance of the aging lines can jar some of the coating loose and allow lead to contaminate the water.

Citing $2.4 billion in planned New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board infrastructure projects as well as numerous past water system and street projects Quatrevaux raises the possibility that individual homes or businesses might see spikes in lead levels in drinking water.

"New Orleans residents living where infrastructure construction projects occur may be — or may have been — unknowingly exposed to elevated levels of lead in drinking water," the report said.

In a statement emailed Thursday, the city Sewerage and Water Board stressed its compliance with all state and federal laws and said the city's water is safe. It outlined its existing policies for educating customers by way of social media, direct mail and email about risks of lead exposure.

The board's website offers information on water quality and tips to reduce lead in drinking water, posted in response to customer queries after the 2015 water crisis in Flint, Michigan. There, lead was discovered in the drinking water after the city began tapping Flint River water as a source. The river water was not properly treated, leading to lead leaching from old pipes and fixtures.

"The City and S&WB have taken proactive steps to inform residents of the potential for increased exposure to lead in water caused by partial replacement or disturbance of LSLs (lead service lines), as well as the steps the public should take to reduce the impacts of that temporary elevated lead exposure," the board's statement said.

Quatrevaux's report says the city's past efforts lacked a sense of urgency. He cited the board's 2015 report touring upcoming infrastructure improvements that had scant mention of the possibility that the work could cause a spike in lead levels.

Meanwhile, the city says it's taking steps to reduce the long term danger of lead pipes.

Because lead lines were an industry standard until the dangers of lead became known in the 1970s, the city has no special inventory of where its lead supply lines exist. The board said it began taking an inventory of its approximately 140,000 lines last year, at the request of Mayor Mitch Landrieu, to begin determining which lines are made of lead. That will help the city prepare for future replacements.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Former senator investigated man in Trump Jr. meeting for money laundering

The Hill, By Josh Delk, July 19, 2017

Irakly Kaveladze, the eighth person confirmed to have attended Donald Trump Jr.'s 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer, reportedly worked to set up bank accounts in the U.S. that have been investigated for money laundering, according to a new CNN report.

CNN found that a Government accountability office (GAO) report from 2000 details the investigation for money laundering.

According to the report, Kaveladze took part in opening 236 accounts at two banks that the GAO reported had over $1.4 billion deposited into them between 1991 and 2000, which came under congressional investigation for possible money laundering.

Former Democratic Sen. Carl Levin (Mich.) said on Facebook Tuesday night that Kaveladze created both the companies and bank accounts that were investigated, and that Kaveladze established "some 2,000" companies on "behalf of the people in Russia."

Levin said "Kaveladze claimed he did all this without knowing for whom he was doing it."

"There was never any allegation of him engaged in any criminal activity," Kaveladze's lawyer, Scott Balber, said on CNN's "Outfront" with Erin Burnett Tuesday night. "He has never been implicated in any wrongdoing whatsoever."

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Kaveladze, the vice president of a real estate group, was at the June 9, 2016, meeting in which Trump Jr. met with a Russian attorney in an effort to gather damaging information on then-Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

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From:	Wuco, Frank (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	FW: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Wednesday, July 19, 2017
Date:	2017/07/19 05:03:09
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From: Bulletin Intelligence
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:01:51 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Wednesday, July 19, 2017

The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017 5:00 AM EDT

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Leading DHS News:

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BEGINS PRELIMINARY WORK FOR BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION. The New York Times (7/18, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports, "The United States Army Corps of Engineers has begun preliminary preparations for the construction of segments of a wall in several places along the border with Mexico, the Department of Homeland Security said on Tuesday." The engineers are "drilling and taking soil samples to determine what type of barriers would be most effective in the different types of geography along the border, said David Lapan, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security."

The San Antonio Express-News (7/18, 786K) reports the "revelation that Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge would be marooned south of the wall has broadsided some Rio Grande Valley officials." Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol sector chief Manuel Padilla Jr. "sought to assuage concerns, though some remain unconvinced." Padilla is quoted as saying, "Once you paint the picture of what crosses the refuge and why it's a priority I think people understand... of these projects are in the planning stages and subject to change, but I want to be transparent with them and keep them involved."

DHS: President Is Not Involved In Border Wall Procurement Process. CNN (7/18, Kopan, 44.83M) reports, "President Donald Trump may have a vision of what his border wall should look like, but he's not involved in the process to make those decisions, according to the Department of Homeland Security." CNN adds, "Despite Trump's recent comments on how the wall will take shape, including references to it including solar panels and transparency, Customs and Border

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Protection is handling the process to choose prototypes to be built and have not briefed Trump on the options, the department said Tuesday." DHS spokesman David Lapan is quoted as saying, "We have not involved the President in the procurement process."

JUSTICES URGED TO REJECT TRUMP REQUEST TO TIGHTEN TRAVEL BAN. The AP (7/18, Sherman) reports that opponents of President Trump's ban on refugees and visitors from six mostly Muslim countries are "urging the Supreme Court to leave in place a federal judge's order that would relax restrictions on entry" into the US. The lead challengers wrote in High Court filing Tuesday that the Administration's argument in favor of a broader travel ban that excludes grandparents and grandchildren is "nonsense." The Administration is appealing a ruling from US District Judge Derrick Watson that "vastly expanded the family relations that refugees and visitors can use to get into the country." Reuters (7/18, Hurley) reports similarly.

USA Today (7/18, Gomez, 10.05M) reports, "The number of people covered by President Trump's travel ban dropped again this week after the State Department issued new guidance to its offices around the world." The State Department "issued the new guidelines late Monday to comply with an order from a federal judge in Hawaii, who ruled that the Trump administration was using too narrow a definition of family when deciding who was affected by the ban." USA Today explains that the ban "went into effect June 29 following a Supreme Court ruling," and "restricts travel from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days, and limits all refugee admissions for 120 days."

DHS News:

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES $44.3 BILLION FY2018 DHS SPENDING BILL. Congressional Quarterly (7/18, Subscription Publication, 967) reports the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday "approved a $44.3 billion fiscal 2018 spending bill" for DHS that "includes funding for some of President Donald Trump's key immigration enforcement policies." The bill advanced on a vote of 33-20 despite Democrat objections to the bill's inclusion of "$1.6 billion to begin constructing Trump's wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and increased funding for more immigrant detention beds and deportation agents." House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee chairman Rep. John Carter (R-TX) "said Democratic amendments intended to strip money from CBP and ICE to pay for other DHS programs would be wasteful," and "argued the appropriations committee should not make policy changes in a funding bill, as he believed Democrats were trying to do."

The Hill (7/18, Chalfant, 1.61M) reports the spending measure would also "provide roughly $1.8 billion in funding for a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) cyber unit." The bill "would allocate the money for the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), the DHS office tasked with securing critical infrastructure from cyber threats." The Hill adds that the bill "would cut funds to the DHS's Science and Technology Directorate by more than $100 million, reducing its budget to $638 million and putting it in line with President Trump's budget request."

In separate coverage, The Hill (7/18, Elis, 1.61M) reports the bill "has $1.57 billion in border infrastructure funds, including $498 million for 28 miles of new levee wall in the Rio Grande Valley, amounting to $17.8 million per mile." The bill also "includes another $784 million for 32 miles of new 'border fencing' in the area, while $251 million was set aside for 14 miles of 'secondary fencing' in San Diego, Calif." The spending bill also makes funds available for "mobile video surveillance systems, ground sensors, towers and funds for combatting cross-border tunnels."

According to the AP (7/18, Taylor), House Republicans are "moving next week" to approve the funds by attaching the money "to a spending bill for the Defense Department and a handful of other agencies like the Department of Veterans Affairs." The funding "is strongly opposed by Democrats and some Republicans," but the GOP plan "would give Trump a much-needed victory on Capitol Hill after the failure of the Trump-backed effort to repeal and replace" the ACA.

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PACKAGE CONTAINING WHITE POWDER SENT TO GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN DALLAS. The Dallas Morning News (7/18, De Bruijn, 894K) reports, "A package containing a white powder that was sent to a government building in Pleasant Grove proved to be harmless, officials said Tuesday morning." The building "appears to be a U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services center, according to a government website." The FBI's Dallas office "is assisting in the investigation."

DHS OFFERS STUDENTS MONEY TO COUNTER ONLINE TERRORIST RECRUITMENT. The New York Times (7/18, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports that the Department of Homeland Security is enlisting students at dozens of American universities in a program called Peer to Peer: Challenging Extremism, which offers students up to $2,000 a semester "to develop social media campaigns and other tools to counter the online recruiting efforts of terrorist groups like the Islamic State." DHS Office for Community Partnerships Director George Selim said about 50 to 75 universities participate each year, and that the winning school receives $5,000. Director Selim said that the "countering violent extremism" competition also encourages students to develop campaigns countering white supremacist groups and gangs.

Border Wall:

CIS FELLOW: BORDER WALL NEEDED TO STOP OPIOID EPIDEMIC. In an op-ed for the Washington Times (7/18, Arthur, 458K), Center for Immigration Studies fellow Andrew Arthur argues heroin is a "public health problem in the United States, and the drug is largely coming from the south." Arthur opines that building "barriers along the southern border would stem the flow of heroin carried by 'mules,' and in vehicles crossing between the ports of entry." Arthur concludes that treatment and opioid overdose drugs are "crucial," but says its "time to do more, however. It is time to erect the barriers – fencing, bollards and where needed, a wall, to stem the tide of heroin into the United States."

Border Security:

CBP PROCESSES 35,000 AIRLINE PASSENGERS THROUGH TEST ENTRY-EXIT SYSTEM. The Daily Caller (7/18, Rennie, 680K) reports CBP has "processed about 35,000 passengers through a test version of a new system designed to combat visa overstays, the agency's deputy executive assistant commissioner John Wagner told a House subcommittee last week." The test of the biometric system, "which has been in place at the Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport since June 2016, involves taking a foreigner's photograph before the flight and storing it in a database to track people entering and exiting the country using a visa." Wagner "said CBP is expanding its test demonstrations to Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, 'plus four additional large airports.'"

CBP, ICE HIGHLIGHT COUNTERFEIT ITEMS AT DFW AIRPORT. On its website, KDAF-TV Dallas (7/18, 14K) reports, "Tuesday at DFW airport, U.S Customs and Border Protection officers, along with Immigration and Customs Enforcement gave travelers a good look at some phony products that have made their way through the airport." ICE assistant special agent John Wells is quoted as saying, "We have sports apparel, counterfeit makeup, things like counterfeit movies. ... Transnational criminal organizations have been utilizing counterfeit products to access illegal proceeds to further their criminal enterprises."

Trump Seeking Crackdown On Foreign Counterfeits Of US-Made Goods. Reuters (7/18, Rampton, Rascoe) reports the White House said yesterday that President Trump is seeking ways to defend American-made products by certifying legitimate US goods and cracking down on "predatory online sales of foreign goods" that are hurting US retailers. Trump is slated to talk to small- and medium-sized manufacturers today regarding how to certify their products and keep out foreign counterfeits. The Administration official told reporters that the US loses about $300

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billion annually to theft of intellectual property.

A second Reuters (7/18, Aeppel) story focuses the finding of a Reuters/Ipsos poll released yesterday that Americans prefer US-made goods but are unwilling to pay a premium for them. The poll found that low-income Americans are most enthusiastic about buying American but are least able to afford paying extra. AMES, which makes wheelbarrows, is one manufacturer that has seen retailers refuse to charge more for their product purely based on its origin. Still, Americans generally prefer the quality of domestic goods, and AMES has discovered some ways to offset their disadvantage vis-à-vis foreign producers' lower costs. Cheaper domestic freight, a desire among retailers to carry lower inventories, and AMES' relatively better position to help retailers be more agile can give it an edge. US manufacturers also can invest in technology to cut costs.

SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC AT SAN YSIDRO CROSSING TO BE CLOSED FOR 57 HOURS IN SEPTEMBER FOR EXPANSION. The Los Angeles Times (7/18, Dibble, 4.57M) reports the San Ysidro Port of Entry will be closed for southbound traffic for "57 hours in September" as "part of a plan by the U.S. General Services Administration to realign a portion of Interstate 5." The closure, from "3 a.m. on Sept. 23 until noon on Sept. 25," is the "third and final phase of the $741-million expansion of the San Ysidro Port of Entry." The GSA's aim is "to double the number of southbound lanes that feed into El Chaparral from five to 10," and will "also involve adding eight more northbound inspection lanes at the San Ysidro Port of Entry, bringing the total to 33." The plans also call for "southbound vehicle inspection booths to be operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspectors, and a secondary inspection area."

BORDER PATROL AGENTS ARREST CONVICTED MS-13 MEMBER NEAR BORDER. Breitbart (7/18, Price, 2.16M) reports Tucson Sector Border Patrol agents "captured Misael Ramirez-Benitez, a Salvadoran national, shortly after he illegally crossed the border from Mexico Sunday night." A records check revealed multiple criminal convictions, and agents "also determined Ramirez to be a member of the hyper-violent transnational criminal gang, MS-13."

CONTINUING COVERAGE: CBP AGENTS NOT AUTHORIZED TO SEARCH CLOUD DATA. In continuing coverage, NextGov (7/18, Avins) reports CBP agents "are allowed to search the contents of travelers' phones but not their data stored exclusively on the cloud, according to a letter from federal officials." CBP acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan responded to a request from Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) that explains that agents are only permitted to search information stored "physically" on a traveler's phone.

OPINION: TRUMP IS "STEALTHILY" IMPLEMENTING MUSLIM BAN. In an op-ed for the New York Times (7/18, Subscription Publication, 14.49M), Muslim Advocates President Farhana Khera and Muslim Advocates legal director Johnathan J. Smith argue, "Lost amid the uproar over the Trump administration's travel restrictions on citizens from Muslim-majority countries and the impending showdown at the Supreme Court are the insidious ways that the government has already begun to impose a Muslim ban." Khera and Smith say the Administration is using "deceptively boring means," such as "increasing administrative hurdles and cementing or even expanding the current travel restrictions that are not under review at the court."

EFF ATTORNEY: BIOMETRIC SCREENING "MUST END." In an op-ed for The Hill (7/18, Schwartz, 1.61M) "Pundits Blog," Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) senior staff attorney Adam Schwartz argues DHS "should end" its biometric screening program that "subject[s] U.S. and foreign citizens to facial recognition screening at international airports." Schwartz says the "history of this program is a case study in mission creep." Schwartz opines that facial recognition is a "unique threat to our privacy," has "significant accuracy problems," and hackers "might steal DHS' biometric information." Schwartz also opines that government employees may misuse the data, DHS might "share with other government agencies the biometric information it seizes from travelers," and the agency may also "expand the ways it uses the biometric screening system."

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NATIONAL BORDER PATROL COUNCIL PRESIDENT CONCERNED BY RISE IN APPREHENSIONS. Congressional Quarterly (7/18, Subscription Publication, 967) reports, "Rank-and-file Border Patrol agents are said to be concerned that more undocumented immigrants are attempting to enter the United States because they know they cannot be detained indefinitely, despite President Donald Trump's order to end so-called catch-and-release policies." National Border Patrol Council president Brand Judd "believes the word is spreading among smugglers and migrants that even if the Border Patrol doesn't let you go, another federal agency might." CQ adds that the EOIR is "seeking to quicken the case completion rate in immigration courts by hiring additional judges and placing them in the courtrooms where ICE needs them most."

Aviation Security:

LAPTOP BAN "END IN SIGHT." The Washington Post (7/18, Sachs, 12.92M) reports the Department of Homeland Security on Monday "lifted its electronics ban on Saudi Arabian carrier Saudia and King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jiddah" and this week also "expects to add King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh – the only remaining airport affected by the ban announced in March – to the approved list, after verifying its bolstered security." According to the Post, DHS "has now lifted the ban, which required passengers to check any gadgets larger than a mobile phone as a safety precaution, on nine of the 10 Middle Eastern and African airports affected." Lisa Farbstein, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration, outlined the airlines and airports that "have implemented the required initial enhanced security measures" and asserted "travelers will now be able to bring laptops and other large electronic devices into the cabin of U.S.-bound flights."

The Economist (7/18, 7.89M) reports, "Technically, the laptop ban is not quite over" as the TSA "has not yet lifted it for the airport in Riyadh, only for Saudi Arabian Airlines' main hub in Jeddah." But a TSA spokesman "told Reuters that American officials would be visiting Riyadh airport later this week to confirm compliance with the new security requirements." Ars Technica (7/18) reports similarly.

Immigration Policy:

CONTINUING COVERAGE: SOME CRITICIZE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO ISSUE EXTRA H-2B VISAS. In continuing coverage, the Washington Examiner (7/18, Higgins, 403K) reports Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) "slammed President Trump's administration for expanding the number of H-2B visas by 15,000 this year, saying the visas, which are provided to workers in non-farm labor, would hold down wages for U.S.-born workers." The senators released a joint statement that said, "While there may be legitimate needs among employers who rely on H-2B workers in certain sectors of the economy, a growing body of evidence shows that our increasing reliance on the H-2B visa program hurts wages for American workers and puts their jobs at risk. New research suggests that wages in some H-2B fields have been stagnant for years. The administration's decision to increase the number of H-2B visas will only exacerbate this problem."

In an extensive and critical analysis, The Atlantic (7/18, 19.86M) reports the Administration's "decision to expand the H-2B program is yet another example of a fairly conventional government action complicated by the president's continued ownership of his real-estate empire." The Atlantic adds that the "debate about the role of immigrants in the U.S. economy means that the decision would likely have been controversial regardless of who was in office," but the fact that the "president himself will likely financially benefit from the program means that it also raises the question of whether Trump and his administration are looking out for the needs of the country or the needs of the Trump Organization."

SOME TEXAS LAWMAKERS PUSHING FOR REPEAL OF SANCTUARY BAN DURING

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SPECIAL SESSION. The Houston Chronicle (7/18, Zelinski, 2.12M) reports, "Members of the Texas Mexican American Legislative Caucus and the Black Caucus say they want Speaker Joe Straus to bring up legislation repealing SB4, a controversial immigration law that allows law enforcement to probe for information about a person's legal status."

Harris County Attorney Files Brief In Case Against Texas Sanctuary Ban. The Houston Chronicle (7/18, Zaveri, 2.12M) reports, "Last week, Harris County Commissioners Court opted not to join a lawsuit challenging the state's controversial 'sanctuary cities' law as unconstitutional." The Chronicle adds that the County Attorney Vince Ryan "has filed a brief asking a federal court to halt its implementation on Sept. 1."

NEBRASKA STATE SENATORS CALL ON ATTORNEY GENERAL TO BACK AWAY FROM DACA THREATS. The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (7/18, Duggan, 643K) reports, "A group of state senators wants Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson to back away from an effort to end temporary legal status for immigrants brought to the country unlawfully as children." Twenty members of the 49-member legislature "signed a letter expressing disappointment over Peterson's decision to join nine other Republican attorneys general in calling for an end to the federal program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals."

IMMIGRANT GROUPS OFFERING GUIDANCE ON RESISTING ICE. The New York Observer (7/18, Toure, 344K) reports, "A group of grassroots organizations from New York City and other parts of the country will be discussing how they are fighting back against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids and what they said are expanded local and national deportation systems in a webinar later this month." The webinar "will take place on July 18 at 8 pm and feature grassroots groups who will discuss how communities can fight back, object to mainstream narratives and document abuses."

FLAKE, RUBIO COMPROMISE ON CUBA POLICY. McClatchy (7/18, Daugherty, 95K) reports Engage Cuba and the Center of Democracy in the Americas announced Tuesday that they "sent a letter to the departments of State, Treasury and Commerce outlining their recommendations" for the Administration's policy on Cuba that "include allowing individual people-to-people travel, lifting restrictions on remittances and lifting limitations on bank transactions for Cubans who open US bank accounts." At the event, Sen. Jeff Flake, "a longtime critic of US trade and travel restrictions on" Cuba, said he and Sen. Marco Rubio have "had broad disagreements with policy on Cuba, but we want to make sure that American travel serves a purpose and that it empowers entrepreneurs." Flake added that he and Rubio have met with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, the State Department, and the Office of Foreign Assets Control since President Trump announced his policy directive for what Flake described as productive conversations.

SENS. UDALL, HEINRICH SEEK TO PROTECT IMMIGRANT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS. On its website, KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (7/18, 1K) reports Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich recently "sent a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary John Kelly expressing their serious and growing concern that DHS personnel have taken steps to erode longstanding protections for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes, undermining the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Trafficking Victim Protection Act (TVPA), and other state and federal laws enacted to protect survivors." In the letter, the senators "emphasized the importance of providing immigrant survivors of domestic violence and other crimes a sense of certainty and safety about coming forward to law enforcement."

2012 SOLDIER OF THE YEAR DISCUSSES IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE. A Washington Post (7/18, 12.92M) video story featured then-Sgt. Saral K. Shrestha, 2012 Soldier of the Year and a MAVNI recruit, discussing in 2013 his immigration from Nepal to Nebraska and his journey to US citizenship.

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LATIMES: TRUMP SHOULD ENDORSE IMMIGRATION PROTECTION FOR DREAMERS. The Los Angeles Times (7/18, 4.57M) editorializes that President Trump "should show some political courage, endorse the DACA provisions and defend them should Texas carry through with its threat to sue." The Times says that action "would leave some of his core supporters frothing at the mouth, but that's what a leader does – makes the tough calls in the country's best interests regardless of the politics."

NAVARRETTE: CONGRESS' RECENT IMMIGRATION BILLS "ACCOMPLISH NOTHING." In his column for the Washington Post (7/18, Navarrette, 12.92M), Ruben Navarette argues Congress' recent passage of two immigration bill "will accomplish nothing." He opines that there is neither "honesty or common sense in the two immigration bills recently passed by the House of Representatives," as both are "punitive, and poorly thought out." Navarette says the problem with Kate's law is that it "lacks an understanding of human nature," while the bill dealing with sanctuary cities "lacks a grip on reality." He concludes, "The immigration debate is serious business. It's time we started electing leaders who approach it in a serious way."

Immigration Enforcement:

HOMAN: ICE WILL SEND EXTRA AGENTS TO ARREST CRIMINAL ALIENS IN SANCTUARY CITIES. The Daily Caller (7/18, Racke, 680K) reports acting ICE Director Thomas Homan "said Tuesday that he will send a wave of agents to arrest criminal aliens residing in sanctuary cities, focusing attention on interior operations as illegal crossings at the southern border continue falling." The Washington Examiner (7/18, Bedard, 403K) reports Homan said, "You can like President Trump, not like him, like his policies, not like his policies, but one thing no one can argue with is the effect they've had." Homan added that President Trump has "taken the handcuffs off of law enforcement officers who are charged with enforcing immigration laws." The Examiner says the "drop in illegal crossings has given ICE a chance to redirect resources to interior United States and immigrants locked up in jails, illegally working jobs and on the run." The Hill (7/18, Delk, 1.61M) reports similarly.

UNLICENSED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS INCREASINGLY FACE DEPORTATION AFTER TRAFFIC STOPS. The New York Times (7/18, Robbins, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports minor traffic violations – such as a broken headlight, an unworn seatbelt, or a child not in a car seat – increasingly "can have life-altering consequences" for unlicensed immigrants under the Administration's more aggressive stance on undocumented immigration. ICE spokeswoman Rachel Yong Yow confirmed that there has been an increasing number of reports of traffic stops leading to detention in recent months. Leading with the story of two undocumented New York women now en route for deportation following a traffic stop, the Times says that 12 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, offer driver's licenses for unauthorized immigrants, but in New York the debate continues. Advocates say that it would increase public safety by ensuring that undocumented immigrants know the laws and can hold insurance policies. However, critics say it further enables people who are already breaking the law by being in the US illegally.

ICE: TRAVIS COUNTY PUT ICE AGENTS AT RISK BY RELEASING MEXICAN GANG MEMBER. On its website, KXAN-TV Austin, TX (7/18, Jechow, 173K) reports ICE "put Travis County in the hot seat Tuesday with a press release that accuses the Sheriff's Office of releasing a Mexican gang member who had previously been deported four times." ICE "says they caught up with 33-year-old Julio Cesar Mendoza-Caballero a month after he was released from the Travis County Jail on June 16, 2017, without ICE being notified." ICE San Antonio field office director Daniel Bible is quoted as saying, "ICE officers and the individual neighborhoods are placed at risk each time an ICE officer is forced to pick up an alien who could have safely been turned over to us by the releasing law enforcement agency." The Sheriff's Office responded to the criticism by saying, "It is unfortunate that once again, ICE has presented inaccurate information in what appears to be an effort to publicly shame agencies with which it disagrees."

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VILLAGE VOICE: ICE IS STALKING IMMIGRANTS IN PROSTITUTION DIVERSION COURTS. In a nearly 2,000-word piece, the Village Voice (NY) (7/18, Barkan, 233K) reports on the attempted arrest of a woman in New York human trafficking intervention court in June. The Village Voice says ICE has "signaled that it will use the trafficking courts as a way to stalk immigrants," and agents "will try to take people away from the defense attorneys standing at their sides, and without a warrant."

ANN ARBOR COMMISSIONERS OBJECT TO WOMAN'S DEPORTATION. MLive (MI) (7/18, 882K) reports several members of the Ann Arbor Board of Commissioners "sent an open letter Tuesday, July 18, to Rebecca Adducci, director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office in Detroit, asking her to exercise discretion to stop the deportation of Lourdes Salazar Bautista." Salazar Bautista "has lived in Ann Arbor for the past 20 years" and "has no criminal record and has three children who were born here and are U.S. citizens." In separate coverage, MLive (MI) (7/18, 882K) reports Mayor Christopher Taylor "said her deportation will not make the United States safer or protect American jobs." MLive adds that she is scheduled to be deported on August 2.

TRAC RELEASES REPORT DETAILING INCREASED IMMIGRATION COURT BACKLOG. The Los Angeles Times (7/18, Martelle, 4.57M) reports, "According to stats analyzed by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are arresting more people suspected of living here illegally, while the Trump administration has all but halted the Obama administration practice of using prosecutorial discretion to close deportation cases by letting those with clean records and long community ties remain in the country." TRAC released a report on Tuesday that said, "During the first five months of the Trump Administration prosecutorial discretion closures precipitously dropped to fewer than 100 per month from an average of around 2,400 per month during the same five month period in 2016." The policy of ending prosecutorial discretion "has sent the court backlog soaring to more than 610,000 cases that have been pending, on average, for 672 days." The Houston Chronicle (7/18, Olsen, 2.12M) reports similarly.

REOPENED DEPORTATION CASES PUTTING STRAIN ON IMMIGRATION COURT BACKLOG. Southern California Public Radio (7/18, 48K) reports under President Trump, the "number of once-closed deportation cases that have been reopened since Jan. 20 has jumped sharply," particularly in Los Angeles which has seen a 60 percent increase in these cases. Across the country, "1,656 reopened cases between Jan. 20 and May 31 of this year, up from 966 a year ago. In Los Angeles, reopened cases jumped to 475 from 292 during this same period." However, "the data does not distinguish between cases that may have been reopened because of the commission of a crime and those that were not," according to federal immigration court officials. One expert notes that "the once-closed cases back on the docket has a ripple effect in the already backlogged immigration court system" and puts a strain on the judges who are already feeling the burden of the cases. Judge Dana Leigh Marks of the National Association of Immigration Judges said, "It may not be a huge amount of cases, but it's just one more group of cases that we thought we had dispensed with, at least for a period of time."

OHIO MAN DEPORTED TO MEXICO. On its website, WJW-TV Cleveland (7/18, 348K) reports Jesus Lara Lopez was "deported back to Mexico after almost 20 years of living in the United States." Lara "said goodbye to his four children and got on a plane at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport Tuesday morning." ABC News (7/18) reports, "A federal immigration judge first ordered Lopez removed in 2011, Khaalid Walls, the Northeast communications director for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, told ABC News." Walls explained that ICE granted Lopez a stay of removal in 2014, and has "allowed him to remain free from custody to finalize his departure plans." ABC affiliate WEWS-TV in Cleveland "reported that Lopez had never been charged with a crime during his 16 years in the U.S., has paid taxes and did not receive food stamps." In response, Walls "noted...that the lack of a criminal record does not necessarily exempt an unauthorized immigrant from deportation."

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ICE TRANSPORTS INMATE TO SAN MATEO COUNTY TO FACE ASSAULT CHARGES. The San Mateo (CA) Daily Journal (7/18, 43K) reports ICE transported Bulmaro Maldonado Sanchez to San Mateo County Court to face charges for stabbing his co-worker earlier this year. After his initial arrest, Sanchez "posted bail but then failed to show up to a June 20 court date and a bench warrant was issued." His attorney then "contacted prosecutors to inform them his client had been picked up by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and was being held at the Yuba County Jail, which contracts with ICE to serve as a federal detention facility, prosecutors said previously." District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe "confirmed that Sanchez will be turned over to ICE after his San Mateo County court proceedings conclude, and currently remains in custody."

APPEALS COURT: US IMPROPERLY DEPORTED NICARAGUAN REBEL FIGHTER. The AP (7/18) reports, "An appeals court has ruled the federal government improperly ordered the deportation of a former Nicaraguan rebel fighter who had been in the U.S. for more than three decades." Roger Ricardo Alfaro "fled to the U.S. and was admitted on a tourist visa in 1981." He later became a lawful permanent resident. Alfaro was "living in south Florida in December 2013 when he got a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement notification that said he was subject to deportation because he had committed two or more crimes involving moral turpitude." After being ordered to be deported, Alfaro "appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which is part of the U.S. Department of Justice, and the board also found that he had been confined in a prison and ordered him deported." Alfaro "appealed the Board of Immigration Appeals decision to the 11th Circuit" after being deported to Nicaragua in 2015. EOIR spokeswoman Kathryn Mattingly "said the agency does not comment on circuit court decisions."

NINTH CIRCUIT HALTS DEPORTATION OF CHINESE ASYLUM SEEKER. Courthouse News (7/18, Chown) reports, "A Chinese man whose wife was arrested and forcibly sterilized for having a second child can reopen his claim for asylum in the United States, the Ninth Circuit ruled, finding the Bureau of Immigration Appeals abused its discretion in denying it." Chinese-national Song Lin "sought political asylum from China's 'coercive population measures.'"

Criminal Investigations:

OAKLAND RESCINDS AGREEMENT WITH ICE. The San Francisco Chronicle (7/19, Veklerov, 2.64M) reports the Oakland City Council on Tuesday "unanimously rescinded an agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement signed last summer by former Police Chief Sean Whent, hours before he resigned amid questions over his handling of a sexual misconduct scandal." The police department will no longer be able to "designate its investigators as U.S. customs enforcement officers – a classification that allows local police agencies to work with federal immigration officials on cases of human trafficking, narcotics smuggling and other cross-border crimes." Deputy Chief Danielle Outlaw, last week, "told a city public safety committee that active investigations into sex and labor trafficking would be jeopardized by rescinding the agreement with Homeland Security Investigations."

GRAND JURY EXPANDS INVESTIGATION INTO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION. The Detroit News (7/18, Snell, 747K) reports the "grand jury investigation of female genital mutilation has spread to at least three more states as federal agents have identified new targets, according to federal court records." The new targets of the investigation "live in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, according to federal court records and interviews with people close to a criminal case that, until now, was focused solely on conduct involving girls from Michigan and Minnesota." The Detroit News adds that defense lawyers "fear investigators, namely U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, are pressuring people with threats of deportation if they do not cooperate." HSI Detroit special agent in charge Steve Francis "denied that agents were threatening people with deportation in the nation's first federal prosecution involving female genital mutilation." Francis called the allegations "baseless and without merit." The FBI also defended its actions in the case. FBI Detroit Division special agent in charge David P. Gelios is quoted as saying, "The FBI has and will continue to tirelessly investigate allegations involving harm to children, and we will pursue each and every lead in this case, as it is literally some of the

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most important work that we do."

In an op-ed for Fox News (7/18, Yoder, 13.56M), staff writer for the Media Research Center's Culture and Media Institute Katie Yoder argues the news media "who pride themselves on covering feminism are censoring a case out of Michigan alleging that up to 100 young girls were victims of female genital mutilation."

CONTINUING COVERAGE: "NARCOBOSS" BUSTED FOR TRAFFICKING CHINESE FENTANYL. In continuing coverage, the Media (PA) Patch (7/18, Bennett) reports Henry Konah Koffie, known on the dark web as "NARCOBOSS" and "DNMKINGPING," was arrested on charges of trafficking fentanyl from China "and selling it on a dark net marketplace, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement." Koffie was "ordered detained awaiting trial at a sentencing hearing July 18 in Philadelphia and will be transferred from the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia to the District of Oregon, according to ICE." Koffie was "also the target of investigations in the Western District of Pennsylvania conducted by Pittsburgh FBI, USPIS and HSI as well as the District of North Dakota by HSI, USPIS and the Grand Forks Narcotics Task Force, ICE said."

TEXAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY FOR RUNNING PROSTITUTION ENTERPRISE. The Dallas Morning News (7/18, Ramirez, News, 894K) reports Shatara Armstrong, of Texas, "has pleaded guilty in a prostitution enterprise involving women and girls, some as young as 14." Armstrong is "scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 1 on a count of using a facility of interstate commerce in aid of a racketeering enterprise." The Morning News says the case was investigated by HSI and the Fort Worth Police Department.

Secret Service:

FORMER SECRET SERVICE AGENT: AGENCY HAS NO BLAME FOR TRUMP JR., RUSSIA MEETING. In an op-ed for CNN (7/18, Wackrow, 44.83M), CNN law enforcement analyst and former Secret Service agent argues that President Trump's personal attorney's suggestion that the Secret Service "may bear some responsibility for allowing Donald Trump Jr. to meet with a Russian lawyer during the presidential campaign" is a "misunderstanding of the scope – and limitations – of the Secret Service's responsibilities over presidential candidates." Wackrow explains, "At no time during a campaign does the Secret Service's mandate require the agency to appraise candidates' personal engagements, or screen against US intelligence databases to identify potential foreign agents or 'nefarious' actors." Wackrow adds that the suggestion by Trump's attorney is "also a distraction to the women and men of the Secret Service, who put their lives on the line each day to protect the president and safeguard the democratic process."

Emergency Response:

DHS DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE PRESENTS EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR IN GERMANY. Homeland Preparedness News (7/18, Murtha) reports DHS' Domestic Nuclear Detection Office "recently participated in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) workshop in Karlsruhe, Germany, where DHS personnel delivered a presentation on preparing U.S. scientists to serve as expert witnesses in nuclear smuggling cases." DHS "said while the program is designed for cases in the U.S. legal system, it does plan to work with partner nations to modify the modules for expert witness testimony for international legal systems."

LONG COMMENTS ON FEMA'S ROLE IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RECOVERY EFFORTS. KRLD-AM Dallas (7/18, 43K) aired an interview with Administrator Long, who encouraged residents of Texas and other US states to "get to know the local emergency management agency that should be guiding" disaster-related projects. Long, who said he believes "citizens are the true first responder," noted that FEMA recently awarded "nearly $36 million" worth of terrorism prevention and preparedness grant money. Long said the aim of

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awarding those and other FEMA grants is to "help state officials achieve their preparedness goals." State officials, said Long, "should be in control of their own" disaster recovery efforts. Long added that he hopes such efforts are "orchestrated in a manner that leads to more resiliency and reduces FEMA's footprint for the future."

STORM THAT SHARES NAME WITH PRESIDENT INSPIRING JOKES. Newsweek (7/18, Glum, 763K) reports Tropical Storm Don has been "inspiring a lot of jokes, given its shared moniker with" President Trump. However, National Hurricane Center officials put Don on a "potential list of storm names back in 2006—a full decade before" Trump won the 2016 presidential election. Tropical Storm Don, adds Newsweek, formed less than a month after Brock Long was sworn in as FEMA administrator.

BILL WOULD LIMIT TIME PERIOD FOR SEEKING DISASTER MONEY REPAYMENT. WBGO-FM Newark, NJ (7/18, Gregory, 8K) reports on its website that New Jersey Congressman Tom MacArthur is behind a bill which "calls for a three-year limit" on FEMA seeking disaster recovery money repayment from homeowners. MacArthur stated, "I might have been inclined to eliminate" the practice, but "there are times when there's enough question as to whether a payment should have been made. There can be cases where maybe somebody didn't share all of the information. I want to protect the US taxpayer as well."

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE THREATENS YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK POWER LINES. The CBS Evening News (7/18, story 10, 0:20, Mason, 11.17M) reported a wildfire "has grown to nearly 20,000 acres" in California. On Monday, the blaze posed a threat to "power lines that supply Yosemite National Park."

Coast Guard:

COAST GUARD COMMANDANT: INTERNATIONAL EFFORT NEEDED TO COMBAT DRUG CARTELS. In an op-ed for the Washington Examiner (7/18, 403K), US Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, who is chair of The Interdiction Committee, says the US needs to "reduc[e] our nation's illicit drug demand and apply...a network approach, including cyberspace, to draw down the financial assets and institutions of criminal networks that are heavily dependent upon U.S. bulk currency." Zukunft adds, "On the international front, authorities, information sharing, judicial reform, resources, and a coordinated approach to law enforcement – from the municipal to the national level on land, at sea, and in the air – contribute toward making the environment hostile to transnational criminal organizations." According to Zukunft, the Coast Guard "has operated seamlessly with many of the Caribbean, Central American, and South American nations, as well as Mexico and Canada."

Cyber News:

AIR FORCE GENERAL SAYS HACKERS TARGETED HIS BANK ACCOUNT. The AP (7/18, Lederman) reports that Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, whose nomination for a second term as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is under consideration, says one of his main bank accounts was targeted by hackers shortly after the wide-scale Office of Personnel Management breach in 2015 – an event he says has happened to other senior military officials as well. The AP says, "Selva says it took him several hours to resolve the issue with his bank. He says during that time, he wasn't entirely focused on protecting the country."

STATE DEPARTMENT CYBER OFFICIAL TO RESIGN. ExecutiveGov (7/18, Nicholas, 548) reports, "Christopher Painter, coordinator for cyber issues at the State Department, will step down at the end of the month after six years in the job, Nextgov reported Monday." Painter "was one of the officials who urged nations to comply with rules regarding the cyberspace such as agreements to not hack other countries' cyber emergency responders and critical infrastructure," and "collaborated with government agencies, the National Security Council, the private sector and

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other State Department branches to help establish an open and inter-operable internet and information infrastructure."

"FIRST CONFIRMED INTERGOVERNMENTAL CYBERWARFARE CAMPAIGN" DISCUSSED. The Denver Westword (7/18, Walker, 253K) discusses a 1996 cyberattack that involved a computer at the Colorado School of Mines, saying this "was the earliest assault in the first confirmed intergovernmental cyberwarfare campaign: a two-year-long operation carried out by Russia against the U.S. that was dubbed 'Moonlight Maze.'" Westword says, "When the federal government realized the severity and scope of the attacks, it launched a Moonlight Maze inquiry in 1998, the largest digital forensic investigation ever conducted to that point," involving "over 100 federal agents, some of whom traveled to the doorstep of the Kremlin. Today, Moonlight Maze is regarded as the world's first major state-on-state cyberattack, one that forever changed the digital landscape by proving that hackers could steal state secrets just as effectively as they could carry out corporate espionage and steal funds from bank accounts." Westword adds that Russian meddling in 2016 election campaign "had its origins in Moonlight Maze."

CONGRESS MEMBERS REQUEST KOBACH RESIGN FROM ELECTION COMMISSION. Federal Computer Week (7/18, Rockwell, 263K) reports, "Ranking members of the House Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary, Homeland Security and House Administration, told Vice President Mike Pence in a July 18 letter that they want Kris Kobach to resign his position as vice chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity and for Pence to void Kobach's request for states to submit sensitive voter information." Kobach "asked election officials in all 50 states to submit publicly available voter roll information to the commission," but "state election officials have dug in their heels against submitting the data, and privacy advocates have filed lawsuits to block the action." The letter "quoted a warning from former...Secretary Michael Chertoff's July 5 Washington Post op-ed" in which he "said the order 'risks running afoul' of President Donald Trump's May 11 cybersecurity executive order because of inadequate protection for the data if it's sent to the commission."

FORMER CLINTON, ROMNEY CAMPAIGN MANAGERS TO CO-LEAD ELECTION CYBERDEFENSE INITIATIVE. CNN (7/18, Stafford, 44.83M) reports, "The managers of Hillary Clinton and Mitt Romney's presidential campaigns are teaming up to protect American elections from cyberattacks." Robby Mook and Matt Rhoades "will co-lead the Defending Digital Democracy Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, the Harvard Kennedy School announced on Tuesday." The project "will focus on developing 'concrete solutions' to address the threat of hacks on political organizations and election infrastructure," and "will seek to develop and share best strategies with organizations involved in the electoral sphere."

LIN: STEALTH NEEDED IN DEPLOYING CYBER WEAPONS. Dr. Herb Lin of the Center for International Security writes in Lawfare (7/18, Lin) about a "significant misunderstanding" to the effect that "attribution is not a big deal in a warfare scenario." Lin agrees that destructive acts conducted via cyberspace are intended to be noticed by an adversary, but "this sentiment ignores" the need to gain and maintain "access to the target in question before the operation does its destructive deed." Lin argues that "access paths to the target for a given cyber weapon must be established in advance, and such access paths must be maintained and concealed until the weapon is used," and thus cyber weapons require more advance preparation than kinetic weapons. Lin adds, "If it is not concealed, the adversary may well eliminate that path and thus negate the weapon's effectiveness against the target." Regarding the possibility of Cyber Command operating separately from the NSA, Lin says Cyber Command will need the NSA's skill at "operating stealthily" for this reason.

CYBER COMMAND HEAD: CYBERSECURITY ANALYSIS, RESEARCH CAN HELP US MILITARY THWART ATTACKS. ExecutiveGov (7/18, Nicholas, 548) reports, "Lt. Gen. Paul Nakasone, head of the Cyber Command, has said he believes cybersecurity analysis and research efforts can help the U.S. military thwart potential network attacks." Nakasone "told

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audience during a panel discussion at the 2017 Defense One Summit that the Army plans to recruit 60 second lieutenants for the Cyber Command to serve as mid-grade officers." ExecutiveGov says, "The Army Cyber Command also posted an interactive link on its website and YouTube channel in an effort to encourage hackers to participate in a puzzle challenge." Nakasone is quoted saying, "We wanted to create an excitement (and) an ability for our best talent in the nation to take a look and want to be part of our force. ... We are going to need coders, we're going to need malware forensics analysts."

KASPERSKY LAB PRODUCTS NEVER CERTIFIED BY UK NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTER. Reuters (7/18) reports, "Britain's National Cyber Security Centre said on Tuesday it had never certified products from Russian cyber security firm Kaspersky Lab." The NCSC is quoted saying, "The NCSC certifies products through a range of initiatives, and vendors apply to have their products certified via one of our accredited lab partners. ... We certify products through a range of initiatives, but the NCSC has never had products listed from Kaspersky."

SECURITY "MISTAKES" ABOUND AMONG COMPANIES MOVING TO CLOUD. TechRepublic (7/18, Forrest, 146K) reports, "A recent data breach at Dow Jones exposed data including names, addresses, and partial credit card numbers from millions of customers, according to a Monday report from UpGuard." TechRepublic says Dow Jones "chose the wrong permission settings for the Amazon Web Services (AWS) S3 data repository," and thus "essential[ly] gave any AWS users access to the data." TechRepublic adds, "While this seems like an oversight that would be easily caught by an admin, common sense mistakes are rampant among large companies racing to get their data to the cloud." RSA senior director of advanced cyberdefense Peter Tran "said that cloud security is in a 'delicate state of transition,' with a massive surge of cloud migrations happening in the past year," and "the sheer speed of the 'cloud first' movement has led to security gaps, specifically regarding identity management and access controls, Tran said."

FORMER NSA DIRECTOR: ADMINISTRATION TAKING CYBERSECURITY SERIOUSLY. Bloomberg News (7/18, 3.08M) featured former NSA director Gen. Keith Alexander discussing cybersecurity topics. Alexander was shown saying that improving cyberdefense will come from a private-government partnership, as the private sector alone cannot be relied upon to improve its cybersecurity stance. Alexander added that the Trump Administration appears to have "taken on" this aspect of cybersecurity, and the President has "asked all the right questions" in meetings with him. Alexander went on to express optimism over the government's progress on cybersecurity policy.

SENATOR WANTS DHS TO MANDATE GOVERNMENT-WIDE USE OF DMARC. The Hill (7/18, Chalfant, 1.61M) reports US Sen. Ron Wyden "is pressing" DHS to "mandate the government-wide use of" the Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformanc "to ensure that hackers cannot send emails that impersonate federal agencies." DMARC is "a standard developed by the industry that lets organizations send impersonating emails to a spam folder or have them rejected by victims' email providers." DHS "could use its authority under the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA), passed in 2014 to mandate the adoption of DMARC across executive branch agencies, Wyden said." Wyden also "recommended that DHS require agencies to submit DMARC reports to track 'any efforts by criminals and foreign governments to impersonate U.S. government agencies.'"

TNT CONTINUES TO RECOVER FROM JUNE 28 CYBER ATTACK. In continuing coverage, Air Transport World (7/18, Nensel, 131K) reports that FedEx said in a disclosure filed with the SEC on July 17 that TNT Express is still recovering from the June 28 cyber attack. FedEx stated in the disclosure, "Although we cannot currently quantify the amounts, we have experienced loss of revenue due to decreased volumes at TNT and incremental costs associated with the implementation of contingency plans and the remediation of affected systems." FedEx noted that it does not have insurance to cover for the attack. The article adds that despite the financial impact of the attack, FedEx "reaffirmed its 2020 fiscal year guidance to improve its operating income by $1.2 billion to $1.5 billion in fiscal 2020 versus fiscal 2017."

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Logistics Management (7/18, Berman, 125K) reports that a research note from Wolfe Research "said that the firm believed TNT had significantly under-invested on IT in recent years, leaving the company more susceptible to prolonged impacts." Jerry Hempstead, president of parcel consultancy Hempstead Consulting, explained that TNT's reliance on paper will be a problem for the company. Hempstead added, "Now, sadly for FedEx, the most affected shippers can tender to UPS and DHL electronically outside the United States electronically. They just have to scramble to negotiate a discount agreement close to the deal they may have had with TNT."

BBC News (UK) (7/18, 1.5M) reports that in addition to FedEx, several other companies affected by the June 27 attack are "still struggling to return operations to normal," including Nuance Communications, Maersk, Mondelez International, and Saint-Gobain.

CIO Dive (7/18, McKevitt) and PYMNTS (7/18) also report on the story.

CYBERATTACKS "SKYROCKET WORLDWIDE." Fox Business (7/18, Libassi, DeVoe, 577K) reports, "From NotPetya to WannaCry, the number of cyber-attacks continue to skyrocket worldwide." SonicWall CEO Bill Conner is quoted saying, "2 years ago, there was 3.3 million attacks, 2015 there were 3.8, last year 638 million attacks according to our capture research lab." Conner "urges businesses to take action now, before becoming a target."

LAWMAKERS ASK GAO, TSA FOR REVIEW OF PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY GUIDELINES. The Hill (7/18, Uchill, 1.61M) reports Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Frank Pallone have asked the Government Accountability Office and Transportation Security Administration to see if voluntary guidelines for the cybersecurity defenses of pipelines need to be updated or codified. The legislators wrote, "An assessment of these guidelines and their effectiveness is needed as a number of major trends have emerged, with potentially significant implications for our energy, national and economic security."

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICIAL: HACKERS ATTEMPTED 90 BILLION BREACHES IN 2016. The Washington Times (7/18, Blake, 458K) reports, "Hackers tried to breach Pennsylvania government computers over 90 billion times in 2016, a state official said Tuesday, highlighting the scope of the cybersecurity risks at hand across the country as concerns linger surrounding hacking's role in last year's U.S. election."

OPINION: RUSSIAN HACKING OF ENERGY GRID IS "SOBERING DEVELOPMENT." In an op-ed for Forbes (7/18, Levick, 14.59M), CEO of LEVICK counseling Richard Levick argues the Russian hacking of the US energy power grid in July is a "sobering development," and is "one every bit as threatening to national security as the integrity of our election system." Levick concludes, "Companies in these perilous times have no choice but to ready themselves for the nightmare contingency that America's biggest adversary could be hell bent on disrupting their operations."

TEENAGE GIRLS TAKE PART IN SUMMER CYBERSECURITY CAMPS. The Wall Street Journal (7/19, Brody, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) reports on "GenCyber" summer camps for young women. The NSA and National Science Foundation are jointly sponsoring 131 of the camps this summer, which is up from seven camps in 2014.

Other DHS News:

DHS SEEKING TECH DISRUPTERS. EfficientGov (7/18, Fox) reports DHS "is looking for a few good disrupters for first responder and security technology applications," and tech security startups "can get up to $200,000, or $800,000 over four phases, from the Silicon Valley Innovation Program (SVIP), a five-year program of the Department of Homeland Security." Under the new program, "startups can develop or tweak technology to get it up and running, tested and into product development and DHS procurement markets, said Melissa Ho, managing director at

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DHS."

Terrorism Investigations:

POLICE DATA COLLECTION REQUESTS IN DC "GREW SEVENFOLD" IN PAST THREE YEARS. The Washington Post (7/18, Hsu, 12.92M) reports that new information released by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell of the District Court for the District of Columbia shows that sealed "law enforcement requests to track Americans without a warrant through cellphone location records or Internet activity grew sevenfold in the past three years" in Washington, DC. Legal experts say the extent of the information requests "appears to mark a first" and that the data, which covers counts of requests from 2008 to 2016 made in DC criminal cases, "probably will be noted in a pending Supreme Court debate over the extent of privacy protections and surveillance technology."

JUDGE REJECTS VENUE CHALLENGE FROM ORLANDO MASSACRE TERRORIST'S WIDOW. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (7/18, Doornbos, 512K) reports that on Tuesday, a federal judge "denied a request to dismiss an obstruction charge against Noor Salman, the widow of Pulse shooter Omar Mateen, based on the location of the allegations." Salman, who is "charged with aiding and abetting support of a foreign terrorist organization and obstruction of justice," has been "accused of helping scope out places for Mateen to attack and misleading investigators in an interview after the mass shooting." Salman's attorneys "argued her obstruction charge should be dismissed because it was charged in the wrong venue – the U.S. District Court's Middle District of Florida in Orlando."

According to CBS News (7/18, 3.91M), "the charges were filed in a federal district that covers Orlando, but she's accused of obstructing investigators during an interview in Fort Pierce, which is in the Southern District of Florida." However, "the judge said the offense with which Salman is charged had an impact on an investigation in the district in which the counts were filed."

ALABAMA MAN ALLEGEDLY PLANNED ISIS-INSPIRED ATTACKS. The Huntsville (AL) Times (7/18, 815K) reports that in a preliminary hearing, Huntsville police Investigator Brad Snipes testified that "terrorism suspect" Aziz Sayyed "wanted to...carry out...attacks for which ISIS would claim credit." Sayyed "is accused of obtaining bomb making materials to set off an explosion at a Madison County police or military building," and "his case is headed to a grand jury for consideration of an indictment." Sayyed "first came under investigation by the FBI in January when someone reported he had been making some statements involving ISIS."

FBI DESCRIBES UNUSUAL BOMBS BUILT BY VETERAN WHO ATTACKED USAF OFFICE. The Tulsa (OK) World (7/18, 344K) reports that "an unexploded pipe bomb found in the apartment of" Benjamin Roden, "a man jailed in connection with the bombing of a Bixby military recruiting office, had unusual features." The FBI's preliminary analysis "of one of two unexploded improvised explosive devices found in...Roden's south Tulsa apartment determined the device utilized two 9-volt batteries and magnets," which is a design "typically seen in other parts of the world." Roden, "a former Air Force senior airman trained as a firefighter, was discharged in April from the Oklahoma Air National Guard."

APPEALS COURT OKS GAG ORDERS ON FBI'S NSLS. Coverage of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' conclusion that the FBI is not violating the First Amendment by issuing gag orders to companies whose customers fall under investigation continues. The Washington Times (7/18, Blake, 458K) reports that the three-judge panel "upheld disclosure rules involving the FBI's use of administrative subpoenas known as National Security Letters (NSLs)," thousands of which are sent to communication providers each year "in order to compel customer records." The FBI "has argued that letting recipients disclose details about the requests could be detrimental to national security," and on Monday Ninth Circuit Judge Sandra Ikuta wrote for the unanimous panel that the "nondisclosure requirement imposes a content-based restriction that is subject to, and withstands, strict scrutiny." According to Engadget (7/18, 532K), the ruling "means that the

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bureau's intended targets can no longer challenge the investigation, as they won't be aware that they're under scrutiny for at least three years." The case also revealed that NSLs can "give the Bureau access to a complete record of a suspect's online purchases as well as the IP addresses of everyone that they have corresponded with," and since an NSL doesn't require a judge's signature, "this largely leaves the FBI free to investigate who they please."

National Security News:

TRUMP, US SOLDIERS DISCUSS WAR IN AFGHANISTAN. The AP (7/18) reports President Trump on Tuesday had "lunch with service members to come up with new ideas for fighting the war in Afghanistan" because, as he explained to reporters, "We have plenty of ideas from a lot of people, but I want to hear it from people on the ground." The AP says Trump has "largely ceded decision-making to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who is expected to send nearly 4,000 more troops to the country this summer."

The Washington Times (7/18, Boyer, 458K) reports Trump described the service members – Army First Sgt. Michael Wagner, Army Master Sgt. Zachary Bowman, Army Master Sgt. Henry Adames, and Air Force Major Eric Birch – as "four great soldiers who spent a lot of time in Afghanistan" who "know it probably better than anybody." Trump continued, "And we're going to be getting some ideas because we've been there – it's our longest war – we've been there for many years." The Times notes Vice President Pence and National Security Adviser McMaster were also present at the luncheon.

Spicer: Troop Announcement Not Expected During Trump's Visit Pentagon Thursday. The Hill (7/18, Fabian, 1.61M) reports White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Tuesday that President Trump will visit the Pentagon on Thursday for a briefing from his national security team. The discussion will cover various topics, including the fight against ISIS in Syria and Iraq. When asked whether Trump will announce new troop deployments to Afghanistan while at the Pentagon, Spicer responded, "I don't see any announcements then, no."

FORMER WARLORD'S ATTEMPTED RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN THWARTED. The New York Times (7/18, Mashal, Rahim, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports Afghanistan's government prohibited a plane carrying Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, the "embattled vice president" and former warlord, from landing at the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif's airport, "according to several Afghan and Western officials." During Dostum's "nearly two months of de facto exile in Turkey," he "hastily formed a new coalition of the discontented." The Times suggests Monday's incident "will probably deepen Afghanistan's political crisis, testing the limits of Mr. Dostum, a politician who has been volatile in the past and who has threatened to turn his wrath against President Ashraf Ghani's government, which he helped bring to power but now accuses of marginalizing him."

KURDISH INTEL: ISIS LEADER "DEFINITELY ALIVE." CNN's Situation Room (7/18, 554K) reported that Lahur Talabany, a top Kurdish Intelligence official, said ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is "definitely alive. ... We believe 99% he is alive." US intelligence officials are being "guarded" in their assessment of Baghdadi's status amid conflicting reports. Russia last month said it was investigating reports Baghdadi was killed in a Russian airstrike, "but CNN has learned that Russian intelligence has concluded Baghdadi was not there" at the site of the strikes. Terrorism analyst Michael Weiss says the Kurdish intel service has "very good intelligence" because they are able to interrogate former ISIS fighters at their detention facilities and "they have spies...on the ground...who have been feeding them information about the top ISIS leader."

ARAB NATIONS INDICATE FLEXIBILITY ON DEMANDS AGAINST QATAR. The New York Times (7/18, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports senior diplomats from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Bahrain told reporters on Tuesday that they remain frustrated with what they see as Doha's support for terrorism and regional stability, but "were no longer talking about specific demands Qatar must satisfy." The nations have instead "united

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around what they called six broad principles, built upon the themes of combating terrorism and extremism, denying financing and safe havens to terrorist groups, stopping incitement to hatred and violence and refraining from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries." The Times says even though Secretary of State Tillerson's shuttle diplomacy "ended last week in failure," the senior diplomats' remarks nonetheless "seemed to indicate a slight easing in their position and a desire to make some progress in the bitter dispute."

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE REQUESTS EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW ON MILITANT-SEIZED ISLAND. The New York Times (7/18, Villamor, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte urged lawmakers to extend the martial law decree on the island of Mindanao because, he explained, the Islamic militant hold on the city of Marawi "will not be quelled completely by 22nd July 2017," when the decree is slated to end. The Times says "Duterte's request is essentially an admission that the fighting to dislodge the Islamic State-linked fighters from Marawi would not end in a matter of days," as he pledged last week. Meanwhile, Senator Antonio Trillanes, one of Duterte's opponents, called the president's request "totally not justified" and "a whimsical misuse of power" because Maute militants "are down to 60."

US IMPOSES NEW SANCTIONS ON IRAN. ABC World News Tonight (7/18, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported that one day after the Trump Administration certified that Iran is abiding by the 2015 nuclear deal, the US imposed new sanctions on 18 Iranian individuals and groups "for supporting the government's nonnuclear weapons programs and supporting terrorist groups in Syria, Yemen, and Palestinian territories." The New York Times (7/18, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports the sanctions, jointly announced by departments of State, Treasury and Justice, came less than 12 hours after President Trump "reluctantly agreed that Iran has been honoring the nuclear agreement." The targets of Tuesday's announcement "included individuals or groups that the United States said had supported efforts by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps force to develop and produce drones, attack boats and other military equipment," as well as its ballistic missile program. The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) reports that in a statement, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said the sanctions "send a strong signal that the United States cannot and will not tolerate Iran's provocative and destabilizing behavior."

Bloomberg News (7/18, Wadhams, Epstein, Olorunnipa, 3.08M) reports that in announcing the sanctions Tuesday, "the State Department made clear the administration's dislike for the nuclear deal, saying its implementation was meant to contribute to peace and security in the Middle East." On Fox News' Special Report (7/18, 1.53M), State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert was shown saying, "Iran remains, and we all know this, one of the most dangerous threats to the United States, not only our interests here and around the world, but also to regional stability." The Los Angeles Times (7/18, Wilkinson, Bennett, 4.57M) says the "back-to-back actions reflect the policy crosscurrents for President Trump in trying to reconcile his campaign promises with the realities of foreign policy governance."

USA Today (7/18, Dorell, 10.05M) reports Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said Monday "that his country is not designing missiles to carry nuclear warheads, which is banned under the deal, but to defend itself," and the New York Times (7/18, Sanger, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports Zarif said the Administration's "attempt to reimpose sanctions on his country was a violation" of the nuclear deal. Said Zarif, "It is not clear what the administration is trying to do. They have been talking about 'scrapping the deal.' Then they came to realize that would not be globally welcome. So now they are trying to make it impossible for Iran to benefit."

Margaret Brennan reported on the CBS Evening News (7/18, story 7, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) that Zarif said Tuesday that the new sanctions "are poisoning already strained relations between the two countries." Zarif: "It violates the spirit of the deal. We will look at it and see whether it violates the letter of the deal, and we will act accordingly." After Brennan said Trump wants to "scrap the deal" because of its "flaws," Zarif said, "Well, no deal is completely acceptable to everybody." Brennan: "You're saying Iran is not willing to negotiate?" Zarif: "This is a multilateral deal

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approved by the Security Council. It is not a bilateral deal to be withdrawn from or to be renegotiated." Meanwhile, Brennan said "another irritant" for Iran is Trump's "travel ban on six majority Muslim countries, including Iran." Zarif: "What the United States has done against the Iranian people over the past several months has been really repugnant. ... I certainly think it is up to the US government to stop sending all these hostile signals."

Trump Asks Oman's Sultan Qaboos To Help Counter Iranian Activities. The AP (7/18) reports President Trump is asking Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said al-Said "to help counter Iran's destabilizing activities in the Middle East." The White House said the President spoke by phone with Sultan Qaboos on Tuesday to discuss the need for "close bilateral cooperation" and "ways to resolve regional conflicts."

Wife Of American Scholar Held In Iran Calls For His Release. The AP (7/18, Schreck, Tang) reports that the wife of Xiyue Wang, a Princeton graduate student sentenced to 10 years in jail, called on Iranian authorities to release him, saying the Chinese-American man has been "unjustly imprisoned." In her first comments on his arrest, Wang's wife Hua Qu described her husband as "one of the kindest, most thoughtful, and most loving men I have ever known." She said the couple has a four-year-old son.

The Washington Post (7/18, A1, Cunningham, 12.92M), meanwhile, reports on its front page that Wang's conviction comes as a "high-stakes power struggle" between Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and "his hard-line opponents in the judiciary appeared to escalate." Rouhani has "challenged the conservative establishment by pledging reforms in Iran and advocating diplomacy." The tensions come as Iran and the US "spar over the terms of a nuclear deal struck with world powers," and the Post says the moves by Iran's judiciary — including Wang's sentencing — "undermine Rouhani's attempts to build better relations with the West."

CORKER: SENATE COULD VOTE ON RUSSIA SANCTIONS BILL BEFORE AUGUST RECESS. Politico (7/18, Schor, Caygle, 2.97M) reports that the "implosion" of Senate Republicans' ACA repeal push "could clear space for a bipartisan deal on long-stalled sanctions against Russia" to make it to President Trump's desk "as soon as this month," Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker said Tuesday. The bill "has been mired in the House after passing the Senate with 98 votes," and House Majority Leader McCarthy "added a new wrinkle last week by urging that popular North Korea sanctions get attached to the legislation." Corker said his chamber "could handle that addition if the likely failure of Obamacare repeal creates extra floor time."

US CONSIDERING NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST VENEZUELA. Bloomberg News (7/18, Arrioja, Bartenstein, Dlouhy, 3.08M) reports that the US is "poised to impose sanctions on Venezuela's defense minister and several other top officials for human-rights violations, according to people with knowledge of the plan, who added that the action was one of several under consideration" by the Trump Administration. Among those named would be Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez and Diosdado Cabello, "a longtime ally of late President Hugo Chavez and power broker within the ruling Socialist party." Reuters (7/18, Cawthorne, Chinea) reports President Trump said Monday he would take "strong and swift economic actions" if President Nicolas Maduro went ahead with plans to rewrite Venezuela's constitution and supersede other institutions. A senior Administration official "made no announcement of new sanctions on a conference call with reporters on Tuesday and said the policy review was still under way." The New York Times (7/18, Haberman, Londoño, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports Administration officials stressed that they were "talking to other governments about how best to proceed," but "reserved the right to engage in unilateral actions, if need be."

The AP (7/18, Weissenstein, Sanchez) reports Venezuela on Tuesday rejected President Trump's call to halt a rewriting of its constitution, saying "that it is reviewing its relations with the United States in response to Trump's threat to impose economic sanctions." Foreign Minister Samuel Moncada said on state television that the election of members of a constitutional

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assembly will take place as planned on July 30, adding that Venezuela is "conducting a deep review of relations with the US government because we don't accept humiliation from anyone."

FORMER OFFICIALS: TILLERSON MAY CLOSE WAR CRIMES BUREAU IN STATE DEPT. REORGANIZATION. On Tuesday, former US officials told the New York Times (7/18, Gordon, Simons, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) that the State Department's Office of Global Criminal Justice, the war crimes bureau, "may become the latest casualty of Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson's plans to restructure his department." On condition of anonymity, a State Department official maintained Tillerson has not yet made final decisions on the agency's restructuring, and that a motivation to downplay war crimes would not serve as the basis for the bureau's closure. One former official, however, said Ambassador Todd F. Buchwald, who leads the war crimes bureau, "had told his staff that he was being reassigned," and that the bureau's "responsibilities would soon be transferred to the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor."

NYTIMES A1: SAUDI KING'S SON PLOTTED EFFORT TO OUST RIVAL. The New York Times (7/18, A1, Hubbard, Mazzetti, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports that one night last month, former Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef "was summoned to a palace in Mecca, held against his will and pressured for hours to give up his claim to the throne. By dawn, he had given in," and the king's 31-year-old son, Mohammed bin Salman, was named crown prince. Since his elevation on June 21, "indications have emerged that Mohammed bin Salman plotted the ouster and that the transition was rockier than has been publicly portrayed, according to current and former United States officials and associates of the royal family." According to "an associate of the royal family," some senior princes were told that Mohammed bin Nayef was "unfit to be king because of a drug problem." A written statement "by a senior Saudi official denied that Mohammed bin Nayef had been pressured" and said ta body of senior princes had approved the change in "the best interest of the nation."

PALESTINIANS INJURED IN CLASH WITH ISRAELI POLICE. Reuters (7/18, Awad) reports that "several Palestinians were injured, at least one seriously, when they clashed with police near Jerusalem's Noble Sanctuary-Temple Mount compound after Muslim evening prayers on Tuesday," according to Palestinian officials. A hospital official said one man had suffered "a serious head wound from a rubber bullet fired from close range, but an Israeli police spokesman denied that rubber bullets had been used." Reuters notes that tensions have increased around the compound, since security was increased in the wake of an attack last Friday by Arab-Israeli gunmen.

CHINA CRACKS DOWN ON WHATSAPP SERVICE. The New York Times (7/18, Mozur, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports that WhatsApp, "the last of Facebook's major products that still worked in China," was blocked by the government on Tuesday. The popular messaging app was "partly disrupted by Chinese filters, leaving many unable to send videos and photos and some also unable to send text-based messages." The Times says the disruption "was the latest in a long line of big digital services running up against" China's "Great Firewall."

Washington Post (7/18, 12.92M) columnist David Ignatius writes that Chinese leaders, "subtle masters of propaganda, seem to have discovered a Sun Tzu formula for taming dissent on the Internet: The best strategy may not be to confront critics directly, but to lull or distract them with a tide of good news." He notes that "this intriguing argument" is suggested by a recent article in the American Political Science Review titled "How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument." With "complex data, it supports a simple thesis about life in the Internet age: Arguing the facts often doesn't work; frequently, confrontation just makes people resist harder." The study concluded that "if a political narrative is repeated often enough, backed by a chorus of cheerleaders, it's very hard to rebut directly."

RUSSIA DOWNPLAYS UKRAINIAN SEPARATISTS' CALL FOR INDEPENDENT STATE. The AP (7/18, Vasilyeva) reports Alexander Zakharchenko, the separatist leader of eastern Ukraine's

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rebel-controlled Donetsk region, “said in comments broadcast on Russian television that rebels in Donetsk and Luhansk as well as representatives of other Ukrainian regions would form a state called Malorossiya” because, Zakharchenko asserted, “We believe that the Ukrainian state as it was cannot be restored.” After “several hours of silence” passed since Zakharchenko’s “surprise announcement,” Russia’s envoy for mediating Minsk peace talks, Boris Gryzlov, dismissed the seriousness of the proposal, calling it “merely...an invitation for discussion.”

To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the website.

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From:	Wuco, Frank (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	FW: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Wednesday, June 07, 2017
Date:	2017/06/07 05:00:59
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Type:	Note

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2017 5:00:12 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Wednesday, June 07, 2017

The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017 5:00 AM EDT

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Leading DHS News:

KELLY: COURTS BLOCKING TRAVEL BAN HINDERING GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-TERROR EFFORTS. Bloomberg Politics (6/6, Dopp, 201K) reports that DHS Secretary John Kelly said yesterday that "a federal court order blocking the Trump administration's travel ban has hurt efforts to prevent terrorism in the US." Kelly indicated that "because the administration isn't able to enforce its temporary ban on entry to the US by people from six predominantly Muslim countries...he's not 'fully confident' that the country is doing 'all that we can to weed out potential wrongdoers from these locations.'" The Washington Times (6/6, Dinan, 272K) notes that Kelly also told the Senate Homeland Security Committee, "We need to prevent bad actors, regardless of religion, race or nationality from entering our country." The Daily Caller (6/6, Racke, 898K) reports Kelly "tore into federal court injunctions currently blocking President Donald Trump's executive order on foreign travel and refugee admissions to the U.S.." Kelly said the courts are preventing DHS from doing "what we need to do to protect our homeland."

Kelly Vows To Respond To All Congressional Inquiries. Politico (6/6, Kim, 2.46M) reports, "At least one top Trump Cabinet official is bucking administration policy when it comes to oversight requests from Congress." Secretary Kelly "told senators on Tuesday during congressional testimony that his department will respond to any inquiry from members of Congress, no matter who sends the request." Kelly said, "We're leaning forward. ... Regardless of who the letter comes from, and it doesn't have to just come from a ranking member or chairman, we'll respond to any congressional inquiry." He "noted during his testimony that under his tenure, DHS has appeared more than 37 times before Congress, sent 57 witnesses and has been involved in 973 'Hill engagements.'" Politico says senators "gave high marks to Kelly for his pledge to be responsive to Congress, no matter who sends the ask."

Kelly Confirms Searches Of US Citizens' Devices At Airports, Border Crossings. Newsweek (6/6, Cadei, 862K) reports Secretary Kelly "confirmed on Capitol Hill Tuesday" that some US citizens' cellphones may be searched at airports and border crossings. Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) "pressed" Kelly "about the searches and threats to detain or turn back travelers if they did not comply, including citizens and U.S. green card holders." Kelly said, "We do it whether they're citizens or noncitizens coming in," but he "emphasized Tuesday that the practice remains rare." Kelly is quoted as saying, "I think, of the million or so people who come in the country [each day], half of 1 percent is checked. ... We don't do it routinely unless there's a reason why." Kelly "said border agents follow certain procedures, and he promised Paul he'd look into whether there were specific rules governing the searches that could be published." Kelly also "agreed to provide the senator with the form that Customs and Border Patrol agents give to people whose cellphones they want to search, indicating, as Paul noted, that participation is mandatory and they will be detained and/or have their property seized if they don't comply." The Washington Examiner (6/6, Gehrke, 400K) reports Paul "signaled that the forthcoming documents won't change his mind about the wisdom of the tactic, as he called for Congress to pass legislation requiring DHS to get a warrant in order to search someone's phone."

In separate coverage, the Washington Examiner (6/6, Gehrke, 400K) reports Kelly said lone wolf terrorists can be stopped only by law enforcement "getting into people's business" to investigate potential dangers. Kelly is quoted as saying, "Every small town (and) big town, is at risk from this lone wolf stuff. ... I don't know, as hard as I've thought about it, if there's a way to prevent it,

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predict it, get our arms around it, other than local cops and sheriffs getting into people's business, legally – outreach, and all that kind of thing."

Kelly, Harris Have "Tense Exchange" Over Sanctuary Cities. WRC-TV Washington (6/6, 453K) reports Secretary Kelly and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) had a "tense exchange" during testimony on Tuesday over questioning related to sanctuary cities. WRC-TV features video clips of the exchange. The Washington Free Beacon (6/6, Rutz, 115K) reports Harris "cut Kelly off to say the administration was forcing cities into a 'Hobbesian choice' between complying with federal law or forfeiting DHS counterterrorism funds, according to the NTK Network." Kelly responded, "Had you not cut me off, I would have said the same thing you just said. Probably not as eloquently, but I would have said the same thing you just said." Fox News Insider (6/6, 3K) reports the "normally unflappable Kelly grew irritated" during Harris' interruptions and at one point said, "Before I start to answer, will you let me finish?"

Kelly "Defends" Kushner During Senate Testimony. CBS News (6/6, Tillett, 4.4M) reports Secretary Kelly "again defended senior White House adviser and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner's dealings with Russian entities, regarding his alleged attempt to set up backchannel communications with Russian officials before the election." CBS News adds, "While Kelly said he had not directly spoken with Kushner about the communications, he told lawmakers that are within the 'course of normal interaction with another country.'" Kelly "noted that he himself has backchannels established through religious leaders in the United States and leaders in Latin America." He is quoted as saying, "We have to make the assumption that Kushner is a great American, he's decent, he has a security clearance at highest level and if he was opening backchannel communications to pass information through that channel to get to Putin and say 'hey, look we're concerned about this'. ... If it's official it's a whole other dynamic."

The AP (6/6, Jalonick, Riechmann, Day) reports Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) "pressed" Kelly on "whether he believes lawmakers should 'ensure that assumption is correct,'" and Kelly "described the questions as part of Mueller's scope of inquiry." Kelly is quoted as saying, "I think there are numerous investigations that are looking into this. ... I think it's part of the Bob Mueller investigation, and I think there's a number of congressional committees looking into it." CNN (6/6, Kopan, 29.79M) reports Tester "asked...if it would be normal to conduct such communications at the embassy of a non-friendly country like Russia, and Kelly said he wasn't sure." USA Today (6/6, 5.28M) features video of the exchange between Kelly and Tester.

Kelly Signals Support For Critical Infrastructure Designation For Voting Systems. Federal Computer Week (6/6, Gunter, 263K) reports, "In the wake of a leaked intelligence document describing Russian attempts to hack voting systems, Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly doubled down on maintaining the designation of voting systems as critical infrastructure." Kelly "told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on June 6 that despite pushback he's received from state and local election officials[,] he would support the designation put in place by his predecessor Jeh Johnson." Federal Computer Week adds that Kelly told Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) that DHS would be involved in investigations into election system hacking. He is quoted as saying, "We're here to help. ... There is nothing more fundamental to our democracy than voting." Reuters (6/6) reports Kelly also said he would meet with state leaders next week to address ways in which the federal government can help states secure their voter registration systems. Reuters (6/6) features video of Kelly's testimony during questioning by McCaskill.

Kelly: DHS Will Review Bug Bounty Legislation. The Hill (6/6, Chalfant, 1.25M) reports Secretary Kelly testified Tuesday that DHS will review legislation that would create a bug bounty program to ascertain vulnerabilities in DHS networks. The legislation "would establish a pilot program offering incentives for third-party researchers to find undiscovered vulnerabilities in DHS networks and data systems." Kelly said he would take a "hard look" at the legislation.

Breitbart: Kelly "Rejects H-2B Program" During Testimony. Under the headline, "DHS John

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Kelly Rejects H-2B Program, Reveals Drug, Refugee Priorities," Breitbart (6/6, Munro, 2.02M) reports Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) "asked Kelly to accelerate the approval of H-2B contact-workers sought by employers in North Dakota, even though millions of Americans are either unemployed or have fallen out of the low-wage workforce." Kelly responded by saying, "I know we already have large numbers [of contract workers] that come in and have been coming in over the years, but … in the current administration, this is all about American jobs versus people that come in and do the work." Breitbart says the "May budget deal asks Kelly to authorize an extra 70,000 H-2B visas, but Kelly is signaling his reluctance to import the foreign workers." Breitbart adds that Kelly's "pro-American statement was only one of the several dramatic moments at a Tuesday hearing before the Senate committee on homeland defense."

MORE DETAILS EMERGE ON ALLEGED NSA LEAKER AS MEDIA EXPLORES IMPACT. Media coverage of the leaked NSA document published by The Intercept, and the subsequent arrest of Reality Leigh Winner, the alleged leaker, expanded in the latest news cycle. Several themes were prominent in the coverage. A primary topic was the ease with which federal authorities were able to uncover Winner, and the mistakes made by both her and The Intercept. Other prominent topics of media focus were Winner's history of lively social media comments, the potential reflection of the incident on the intelligence community, and the potential vulnerability of US election systems. USA Today (6/6, Bacon, 5.28M) reports on the investigation which led to the arrest of Winner on charges of leaking classified material. According to an affidavit filed Monday, "federal authorities contacted the FBI on Thursday and said a 'News Outlet' had reached out two days earlier relating to an upcoming story." The Intercept, which published a story based on the material in question, "apparently provided authorities with a copy of a top-secret NSA document" and officials "quickly determined the information was classified." The affidavit says the document "appeared to be folded and/or creased, suggesting they had been printed and hand-carried out of a secured space." The affidavit adds that an internal audit "determined that six people had accessed and printed the intelligence report," and, "a further audit of the six individuals' desk computers revealed that WINNER had e-mail contact with the News Outlet."

Justice correspondent Pierre Thomas said on ABC World News Tonight (6/6, story 5, 2:55, Muir, 14.63M) that authorities say Winner left "a trail of clues." On NBC Nightly News (6/6, story 2, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M), Justice correspondent Pete Williams said Winner was arrested "barely one hour" after The Intercept posted its story. According to the affidavit, the New York Post (6/6, Moore, 3.82M) reports, Winner "admitted to investigators that she removed the 'need to know' documents detailing Russian meddling in the 2016 election from her work space, copied and then emailed them to the news website in early May, according to an affidavit." The Washington Post (6/6, Hawkins, 11.43M) reports that criminal investigations into leaks "tend to be long, complicated and delicate affairs," but in the Winner case, "federal authorities brought charges less than a week after being tipped off." The piece highlights a number of errors made by Winner. Vice (6/6, Gilbert, 2.28M) reports that Winner "probably never thought the printer she used would give her away. But that's exactly how the FBI says it was able to find and arrest her less than a month later."

In a piece focusing on the details of the watermark on the printed document, The Atlantic (6/6, Madrigal, 21.27M) reports that "given what is in the public record from the FBI complaint, Winner was almost certain to get caught, and some have argued that The Intercept could not have prevented that. Obviously, the NSA monitors and records who prints what documents. There's an audit trail there, which one imagines an NSA contractor would know."

The New York Times (6/6, Grynbaum, Koblin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says Winner's arrest "has raised concerns about the measures taken by news organizations to protect confidential informers, with some reporters worrying about a chilling effect on potential sources." The Intercept drew criticism from "veteran journalists" who said it "appeared to ignore some basic tenets," including "sharing an original document when asking questions of government officials," which "can expose metadata and high-tech watermarks that may reveal a leaker's identity."

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Michael Hiltzik writes for the Los Angeles Times (6/6, Hiltzik, 4.52M) that the "question is how the government identified her so quickly, and the answer may be that she was inadvertently outed by the Intercept itself." CBC Radio (CAN) (6/6, 27K) reports that "CIA officer-turned-whistleblower" John Kiriakou criticized The Intercept for its handling of the situation, saying the website "should be ashamed of itself because it did nothing to protect its source." Eric Wemple writes for the Washington Post (6/6, Wemple, 11.43M) about how an apparent attempt by The Intercept to verify the documents' authenticity "appears to have turned into a lead for a leak investigation." However, Wemple says that the "mistakes of the leaker before the Intercept even received the document would likely have sealed her fate, regardless of any clumsiness by the reporter in verifying the scoop."

Politico (6/6, Bennett, 2.46M) reports that the "swift arrest" of Winner "offers a cautionary lesson for both leakers and the journalists who deal with them: Conceal your tracks."

Winner Sharply Critical Of President In Social Media Postings. Chief White House correspondent Major Garrett said on the CBS Evening News (6/6, story 3, 2:15, Pelley, 11.17M) that Winner's "social media postings sharply criticized President Trump." The AP (6/6) reports that Winner "shared sometimes scathing opinions on President Donald Trump and his policies for the whole world to see." For example, Winner posted on Facebook that Trump was a "soulless ginger orangutan," among other similar comments.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/6, Trubey, Edwards, 1.41M) reports that her "feeds show forceful views on climate change, refugees, the war in Syria and her distinct dislike of Trump and his policies. She also showed support for the citizens of one of the nation's top adversaries." In February, she replied to a tweet from an Iranian official, saying, "There are many Americans protesting US govt aggression towards Iran. If our Tangerine in Chief declares war, we stand with you!"

The Dallas Morning News (6/6, De Bruijn, 1.12M) reports that "among the few Twitter accounts Winner followed were the hacker group Anonymous, WikiLeaks and former U.S. intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, who leaked classified documents." CNN (6/6, O'Sullivan, Shortell, 29.79M) says that Winner follows 50 Twitter accounts, and while she "didn't appear to post explicitly about hacking or leaking," she "did retweet and like several tweets on the topic."

Meanwhile, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/6, Trubey, 1.41M) reports that the "depiction" of Winner "through social media is not an 'an accurate portrayal of my daughter,' Gary Davis, Winner's stepfather, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Tuesday."

Separately, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/6, Hallerman, 1.41M) reports that Winner "met with members of U.S. Sen. David Perdue's staff earlier this year, the Republican's office confirmed." The report suggests she discussed a variety of issues of concern to her.

NYT: Case Is "Latest Blow" To NSA. The New York Times (6/6, Savage, Shane, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says "the case is the latest blow to the N.S.A." While leaks "have deeply shaken the agency, raising the question of whether it will ever be able to protect its secrets again," Winner's prosecution "may send a deterrent message to the huge, scattered work force of employees and contractors of the N.S.A., showing that the authorities have sophisticated ways to track down leakers in certain circumstances." The Guardian (UK) (6/6, Beckett, 4.07M) says that the Winner leak again highlights the "vulnerability of the US intelligence community to leaks from private contractors." AFP (6/6) says that the leak "was just the latest in a string of disruptive leaks," adding that in "an age of digitized data and advanced encryption, it appears to have gotten harder to keep secrets."

John R. Schindler writes for the New York Observer (6/6, Schindler, 518K) that "whatever her motivations for leaking that NSA report, Winner's tradecraft was thoroughly inept." Still, while she was "caught with admirable celerity," the NSA "and our whole Intelligence Community...must be

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asked if their security clearance process is functioning properly." In addition, "the 'need to know' principle – once sacrosanct among spooks – has failed, yet again. Why was Winner, a linguist specializing in Iran and Afghanistan, able to access an above-Top Secret report on Russian cyber-espionage so effortlessly?" In addition, he asks why "so many IC jobs [are] still being outsourced to pricey contractors, who constitute the lion's share of our problem with leakers and turncoats of late?"

Callum Borchers writes for "The Fix" in the Washington Post (6/6, Borchers, 11.43M) that the "case against Reality Leigh Winner isn't so much about her alleged leak of a classified document as it is about deterring future leaks." However, he says that the "possible price of leaking is well known, yet it is consistently true that some government workers and contractors are willing to take risks to publicize information that they believe the public ought to know. The case against Winner isn't likely to change that."

Warner Says Russia Targeted More State Election Systems. Sen. Mark Warner told USA Today (6/6, Page, 5.28M) on Tuesday that "Russian attacks on election systems were broader and targeted more states than those detailed in an explosive intelligence report leaked to the website The Intercept." Warner said, "I don't believe they got into changing actual voting outcomes. ... But the extent of the attacks is much broader than has been reported so far." Politico (6/6, Tesfamichael, 2.46M) reports that Warner "is calling on intelligence agencies to declassify the names of states affected so they can beef up their electoral systems before the 2018 midterms, warning that 'none of these actions from the Russians stopped on Election Day.'" The AP (6/6) reports that Warner added, "I think people need to realize this is a critically important issue that goes to the heart of our democratic process." The Hill (6/6, Bowden, 1.25M) reports that Warner also said, "Whoever's the leaker should be pursued to the full extent of the law."

Yahoo! Good Morning America (6/6, Levine, 1.42M) reports that Sen. Claire McCaskill said on Tuesday at a Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing that the documents show that "we now have verified information" showing Russian hacking efforts in last year's election.

Document Highlights Potential Vulnerability Of US Election Systems. The AP (6/6, Bajak, Satter) reports that the leaked document "is the latest evidence suggesting a broad and sophisticated foreign attack on the integrity of the nation's elections" and "underscores the contention of security experts and computer scientists that the highly decentralized, often ramshackle U.S. election system remains profoundly vulnerable to trickery or sabotage." USA Today (6/6, Bomey, Burlew, 5.28M) reports that an "attempt by Russian hackers to infiltrate an obscure Florida elections technology company," VR Systems, "is igniting concerns about whether the small industry is vulnerable to attacks that could undermine confidence in election results." The "episode highlights a vulnerability that technological advances in voting have introduced to an institution considered vital to a healthy democracy." In an op-ed for the Washington Post (6/6, Schneier, 11.43M), Bruce Schneier, an author and lecturer at Harvard, writes that "while this document isn't much of a smoking gun, it's yet more evidence of widespread Russian attempts to interfere last year." He adds that "we need to better secure our election systems going forward. We have significant vulnerabilities in our voting machines, our voter rolls and registration process, and the vote tabulation systems after the polls close." NPR (6/6, Ewing, 1.92M) runs a list of five unknowns about the attack, such as how widespread they were and if the federal government can do more to secure voting systems.

Still, The Hill (6/6, Hensch, 1.25M) reports that former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson "said Tuesday he knows of 'no such evidence' Russia altered vote counts in the 2016 presidential election."

Russia Denies Involvement. Homeland Security correspondent Jeff Pegues reported on the CBS Evening News (6/6, story 4, 2:10, Pelley, 11.17M) that on Tuesday, "the Kremlin again denied interfering in the election." Reuters (6/6) reports that Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Pskov told reporters, "This assertion has absolutely nothing to do with reality. We have heard no

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arguments proving the veracity of this information ... Therefore we strongly deny the very possibility that this could have happened." The AP (6/6) also reports on the Russian denial.

The Intercept Claims Federal Documents Contain "Unproven Assertions." The Washington Post (6/6, Wemple, 11.43M) reports that in a statement on Tuesday, The Intercept said that documents released by the federal government "contain unproven assertions and speculation designed to serve the government's agenda and as such warrant skepticism. Winner faces allegations that have not been proven. The same is true of the FBI's claims about how it came to arrest Winner."

Brazile Says She Warned DHS Of Potential Hacking Before 2016 Election. McClatchy (6/6, Kumar, 74K) reports that in the weeks before the 2016 presidential election, then-acting DNC Chairwoman Donna Brazile "warned the Department of Homeland Security that voter registration and absentee voting lists might have been sabotaged." Brazile "said she also urged Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus to learn more about the possible problems and to sign a joint statement with her, raising these concerns to DHS," but he declined.

Winner May Have Worked At "Sweet Tea." The incident has also drawn attention to NSA operations in Georgia. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/6, Peebles, 1.41M) says that "if you're a terrorist somewhere overseas, there's a good chance someone in Augusta, Ga., is listening in on your phone calls." The piece adds that "many people in Augusta are well aware that the NSA – so secretive it's often called the 'No Such Agency' – has had a substantial presence in town for many years." The New York Post (6/6, O'Neill, 3.82M) reports that Winner "likely worked at the 'Sweet Tea' outpost, a 604,000-square-foot NSA post." The "sprawling facility, which opened 2012, can house up to 4,000 specialists working to translate and analyze intercepted communications from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, according to The Daily Beast."

In a separate piece, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/6, Trubey, Peebles, Redmon, 1.41M) reports that "thousands of code breakers, cyber security researchers, intelligence analysts, IT experts and other specialists – military members and private contract employees – work in the intelligence community on Fort Gordon, which includes an NSA installation, and more are on their way," with the expected opening of the new Army Cyber Command next year.

Russian Hackers Accused Of Interfering With Qatari News Outlet. The CBS Evening News (6/6, story 5, 0:15, Pelley, 11.17M) reported Russian hackers are suspected of interfering with a news site in Qatar, "and they may have put out fake information." The FBI is assisting in the investigation into the allegations.

DHS News:

PEKOSKE TO BE NOMINATED TO LEAD TSA. The AP (6/6) reports President Trump will nominate former Coast Guard Vice Commandant David Pekoske to become TSA's next Administrator. Pekoske "most recently held leadership roles at PAE and the National Security Group at A-T Solutions." Secretary Kelly released a statement that said Pekoske has "extensive experience in strategy development, operational leadership, crisis management, risk assessment, financial management, and team building." The Washington Post (6/6, Aratani, 11.43M) reports Kelly also said, "We are fortunate to have the President nominate David to this critical position at our Department, and I look forward to him being confirmed by the U.S. Senate."

SOME SENATORS CONCERNED ABOUT CUTS TO DHS AND TSA GRANTS. Federal News Radio (DC) (6/6, Ogrysko, 16K) reports DHS is "one of a few civilian agencies that could see one of the biggest budget boosts in fiscal 2018, according to President's budget proposal." However, some senators "say the increases come at the expense of cuts to other DHS components and grant programs, which they see as valuable tools in responding to threats at United States ports of entry and smaller scale incidents in their constituencies." During Secretary Kelly's testimony in front of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) said, "I'm

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concerned that these priorities are not getting the attention they deserve, especially in light of what's going on around the world. ... We may be focused on a shiny object, which has come to be known as the travel ban. Instead we need to be focused on how many people we have, [to use] your terminology, General, boots on the ground, in terms of being able to identify, track and prevent these terrorist attacks." Federal News Radio explains that the President's budget proposal does call for a $500 million "reduction" to TSA, and it "eliminates the Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program, which helps deploy law enforcement agencies to secure local airports." The budget also "reduces the TSA Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) teams from 31 to 18," and "cuts both the transit security and port security grant programs in half." Kelly sought to address the concern by saying, "In a perfect world I'd love to fund everything. ... States and local governments now need to sustain what we've helped them [with] the equipment and all that we've helped them get to. There aren't unlimited resources."

Border Wall:

TRUMP PROPOSES PAYING FOR BORDER WALL WITH SOLAR PANELS. The Wall Street Journal (6/6, Meckler, Andrews, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that in a Tuesday meeting with Congressional Republicans, President Trump suggested putting solar panels on a prospective border wall would fund the project. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) said of the idea, "I think it's innovative. To authorize it and to appropriate it wouldn't cost as much." House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) similarly said the idea has "real promise."

Border Security:

SIXTEEN GOP-LED STATES ASK SUPREME COURT TO REINSTATE TRAVEL BAN. The Washington Times (6/6, Dinan, 272K) reports that "Texas and 15 other states filed briefs with the Supreme Court on Monday asking the justices to reinstate...Trump's travel ban policy, saying they're convinced it's both legal and justified."

Reuters (6/6, Hurley) notes that "in the states' brief, filed on Monday, Texas Solicitor General Scott Keller wrote that the executive order does not mention religion at all and distinguishes people based only on nationality." Wrote Keller, "The executive order therefore is emphatically not a 'Muslim ban.'" Reuters adds that "aside from Texas, the officials were Republican state attorneys general from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and West Virginia, as well as Mississippi's Republican governor."

The Washington Post (6/6, Cameron, Soffen, 11.43M) reports "legal experts" say its "fair [to] question" why the Administration is still seeking to revive the President's travel order, when the "ban would have already expired." The original order "was supposed to give [the Administration] just enough time to come up with a more long-term 'extreme' vetting process." The Administration "wanted 120 days to develop these processes," and its "been 129 days since Trump released his first travel ban executive order on Jan. 27."

USA Today, Rollins Debate Travel Ban. USA Today (6/6, 5.28M) editorializes, "A growing sense of futility pervades...Trump's effort to temporarily bar people from certain Muslim-majority nations from entering America," because "even in an area such as immigration, where presidents have wide discretion, Trump has managed to find a barrier to his authority: First Amendment safeguards against religious discrimination."

Ed Rollins, "national co-chair and chief strategist for Great America PAC, a pro-Trump Super PAC," disagrees, noting in USA Today (6/6, Rollins, 5.28M) that Kelly told an interviewer two weeks ago that "if people knew what he knows about terrorism, they would 'never leave the house in the morning.'" Rollins refers to "44 travel bans...instituted by Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George Bush and Barack Obama – all for the

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expressed purpose of keeping the homeland safe," and asks readers to decide "what is more dangerous to the Constitution," a president "invoking executive powers used 44 times by a bipartisan list of presidents without legal challenge...or judges who use the power of the bench to enact a partisan political agenda."

DOJ Fighting Legal Attempt For Campaign Document Draft Of Travel Order. Politico (6/6, Gerstein, 2.46M) reports DOJ is "fighting a legal attempt to force disclosure of a campaign document that may have served as the basis for President Donald Trump's travel ban executive orders." Politico says, "At issue is a policy memo former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani helped to crafted last year in response to what he described as Trump's request for a way to carry out the Muslim ban he proposed, while doing so 'legally.'" Lawyers in a Detroit suit challenging the travel order "say the memo could shed light on whether the executive orders Trump issued in January and March were motivated by religious prejudice."

MANCHIN "ABSOLUTELY" IN AGREEMENT WITH "EXTREME VETTING." Sen. Joe Manchin was asked on Fox News' Fox & Friends (6/6, 831K) if he is "ok with extreme vetting." Manchin said, "Absolutely. That social media gives you a roadmap. It does give you a roadmap of what these people have been thinking, what's been kind of in their environment they've been in, what's inspiring them, what they're interested in, what has attracted them. It tells us everything."

CAMERA TECHNOLOGY MAY INCREASE BIOMETRIC SCREENING SPEED. Government Computer News (6/6, Miller, 1K) reports on new camera technology developed by Oak Ridge National Laboratory that may increase biometric screening speeds at land ports. The technology "uses light-field sensor arrays that allow special cameras to focus on faces of the drivers and passengers in the vehicle and not on the reflection caused by the glass windshield, according to a report in The Verge." CBP officials "recently told the Government Accountability Office that CBP had begun working with Oak Ridge in June 2016 to explore options for applying biometric capabilities to vehicle passengers exiting the country."

Immigration Enforcement:

REUTERS ANALYSIS: TRUMP A "LONG WAY" FROM ENDING CATCH-AND-RELEASE. Reuters (6/6, Ainsley) reports that immigrants are no longer "willingly handing themselves over to immigration authorities" in Texas due to the perception that President Trump "ended the practice known as 'catch-and-release.'" However, "DHS spokeswoman Jenny Burke confirmed...the agency has not issued new guidance for releasing migrants caught at the border"; rather, ICE officers continue to "make custody determinations on a case-by-case basis." Indeed, Reuters says, "the numbers suggest the Trump administration is a long way from ending catch-and-release," in part "because his administration has come up against the reality that there simply is not enough space in detention centers." ICE data show that since Trump took office, "the number of immigrants awaiting court proceedings while living freely in the United States has grown by nearly 30,000, rising by an average of about 7,500 per month." The Week (6/6, Kristian, 2.41M) reports the ICE agents interviewed for Reuters' analysis "contradict" Secretary Kelly's assertion in April that the Administration has "ended dangerous catch-and-release enforcement policies."

ICE ARRESTS 70 DURING OPERATION IN OKLAHOMA, TEXAS. The AP (6/6) reports ICE arrested 70 people in Oklahoma and Texas "as part of a three-day sweep targeting immigrants with criminal records or who were in the U.S. illegally." ICE "said in its statement Tuesday that agents with its enforcement and removal operations division focus on those who pose a threat to national security or public safety." The Dallas Morning News (6/6, Fox, Twitter, 1.12M) quotes ICE ERO Dallas field office director Simona L. Flores as saying, "These actions focus our resources on the most egregious offenders and promote public safety in the communities in which we live and work." Similar coverage is provided by the Oklahoman (6/6, 380K), KTVT-TV Dallas (6/6, 72K), and KDAF-TV Dallas (6/6, 16K).

SOUTH CAROLINA SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RESUMES 287(G) PARTICIPATION.

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Columbia (SC) State (6/6, 357K) reports, "The Lexington County Sheriff's Department has resumed its participation in" 287(g) "after authorities previously suspended the partnership with Lexington County." CS says, "The partnership, originally established in 2010, was suspended by ICE in 2014 with the indictment of former Sheriff James Metts on charges that he took bribes so four restaurant workers could work instead of face deportation. Metts later pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to harbor and conceal illegal immigrants."

BORDER PATROL DETAINS IMMIGRANTS HIDING AMONG WATERMELONS IN TRAILER. The Dallas Morning News (6/6, Madry, Reporter, 1.12M) reports Border Patrol agents detained five unauthorized immigrants on Thursday "after they were found in a refrigerated trailer inside boxes of watermelons, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection." They were found at the Falfurrias checkpoint, which is "about 75 miles from the Mexican border." The detainees came from Mexico and El Salvador.

CONTINUING COVERAGE: MAN ARRESTED BY ICE AFTER WORKERS COMP MEETING IS RELEASED. In continuing coverage, Vermont Public Radio (6/6, 3K) reports Jose Flores, who was arrested by ICE after a workers comp meeting arranged by his employer, was released from custody "after more than a month in jail." His lawyers "question whether his arrest was retaliation by the employer, looking to get out of the workers' comp claim," and immigrant advocates "fear his arrest could prevent other workers in the country illegally from reporting workplace accidents."

ONGOING COVERAGE: TRANSGENDER WOMAN ARRESTED AT EL PASO COURTHOUSE PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO FORGERY CHARGES. On its website, KVIA-TV El Paso, TX (6/6, Villasana, 24K) reports Irving Gonzalez, the transgender woman arrested by ICE in February "while filing a protective order at the El Paso County Courthouse," pleaded not guilty to financial forgery charges on Tuesday. KVIA-TV notes that Gonzalez was sentenced to time served on illegal re-entry in April, and her attorney "told ABC-7 it was unclear wether Gonzalez would be deported."

Emergency Response:

DHS ALLOCATES $1.6 BILLION FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS. ExecutiveGov (6/6, Nicholas, 548) reports DHS "has allocated up to $1.6 billion for 10 preparedness grant programs intended to help non-federal government agencies, nonprofit organizations and companies prepare for natural disasters, terrorist attacks and other emergency situations." DHS "said Friday the fiscal year 2017 funding grants represent the department's push to fulfill the country's immediate security needs and maintain public safety in state, local, tribal and territorial communities." Secretary Kelly is quoted as saying the Administration "remains committed to strengthening the security and resilience of our state and local communities."

CLIMATE POLICY EXPERT COMMENTS ON FEMA ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY. According to an online KJZZ-FM Phoenix (6/6, Latzman, 8K) article, a climate policy expert at the Union of Concerned Scientists said she is troubled by an administrator vacancy at FEMA. Rachel Cleetus stressed, "FEMA plays a vital role in disaster response and coordinating a variety of agencies," including the Forest Service. The KJZZ report adds that while Brock Long has been nominated for the FEMA administrator post, he is still awaiting Senate confirmation as Arizona heads "into the heart of fire season."

Secret Service:

HOUSE EXPRESSES "ANGER" AGAINST TURKISH SECURITY FORCES FOR SUPPRESSING DEMONSTRATORS IN WASHINGTON. The Hill (6/6, Marcos, 1.25M) "Floor Action" reports, "The House on Tuesday formally expressed bipartisan anger against Turkish security forces for violently suppressing demonstrators outside the Turkish ambassador's residence in Washington last month." A resolution passed by the House "says that the State

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Department should request waivers for immunity of any Turkish security official involved in the altercation." Floor Action adds, "In the meantime, a joint investigation by the Washington Metropolitan Police, Secret Service and State Department Diplomatic Security Service is underway."

CONTINUING COVERAGE: SECRET SERVICE RELAXES POLICY ON PRIOR MARIJUANA USE. In continuing coverage, the New York Daily News (6/6, Adams, 4.45M) reports Secret Service Director Randolph Alles announced last week that the agency has "relaxed the drug policy for potential new hires" in an effort to find more recruits. Alles "told reporters that it has become necessary for the Secret Service to be a little more lenient when it comes to dealing with job candidates that may have used marijuana at some point in the past." The Secret Service will now give "consideration to the length of time a person has refrained from using the herb when reviewing his or her application."

Immigration Policy:

SENATORS EXPRESS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR CIVIL LIABILITY PROTECTION IN SANCTUARY CITIES. The Washington Times (6/6, Dinan, 272K) reports that on Tuesday at a US Senate Homeland Security Committee meeting, Chairman Ron Johnson (R-WI) floated the idea of a law granting "localities protection from liability lawsuits brought by illegal immigrants who claim they were detained too long." The proposal was promoted as "a bipartisan way of allowing local police to cooperate with federal immigration agents" in sanctuary cities. Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) "said she would be open to the civil liability protection bill" because it would help preserve funding for local law enforcement.

FEAR OF DEPORTATION DRIVING IMMIGRANTS OFF FOOD STAMPS, ACTIVISTS SAY. The AP (6/6, Torrens, Salomon) cites activists and immigrants as saying that due to President Trump's "crackdown on illegal immigration," some poor people are opting out of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) out of fear of deportation. The AP points out "it is not possible to determine the extent of the phenomenon," as "the number of food stamp recipients has declined" due to economic recovery, "and people could drop out for various reasons."

USCIS ACTING DIRECTOR: AGENCY REVIEWING H-1B POLICIES, ADDRESSING ABUSES. The National Law Review (6/6) reports USCIS issued on May 24 "a response to a recent bipartisan inquiry led by the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary's chairman, Chuck Grassley, concerning the possible misuse and abuse of the H-1B visa program." USCIS acting director James McCament "reiterated that USCIS is committed to addressing H-1B abuses through continued investigation, potential new regulations, and internal agency changes" and "also noted that USCIS 'continues to review all policies related to the H-1B program and is planning to publish an updated H-1B guidance section to the USCIS Policy Manual.'" The National Law Review says, "USCIS's response provides some insight into USCIS's plan of action since President Donald Trump signed an executive order in April of 2017 encouraging US companies to 'Buy American and Hire American' and calling for 'strict enforcement' of labor laws for workers coming to the U.S."

REPORT: OUTSOURCING FIRMS RECEIVED "SIGNIFICANTLY FEWER" H-1BS IN FY 2016. The San Francisco Chronicle (6/6, Thadani, 2.2M) reports, "Companies commonly under fire for abusing the H-1B program," typically Indian outsourcing firms, "received significantly fewer of the coveted work visas in fiscal 2016 compared to a year earlier, according to a new report. Experts attribute the drop to the cloud and artificial intelligence." National Foundation for American Policy executive director Stuart Anderson "said the conclusions weaken the Trump administration's argument for wanting to limit the number of H-1B visas issued."

SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER: SALVADORANS NEED "MORE STABLE" STATUS THAN TPS. The AP (6/6) reports, "El Salvador's foreign minister said Tuesday he hopes for a more permanent situation for the 'temporary protected status' that currently shields about 190,000

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Salvadoran migrants in the United States." Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez is quoted saying, "We should erase this word 'temporary' from the map," and that Salvadorans need "something better and more stable than the TPS." The AP reports that regarding Central Americans, DHS "said, Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly would review conditions and consult with appropriate agencies as the expiration date approaches next year."

CRACKDOWN ON SANCTUARY CITIES "EXACERBATING LONGSTANDING TENSIONS" BETWEEN LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. The Atlantic (6/5, Alvarez, 21.27M) says the Administration's "plan to crack down on 'sanctuary cities'...is exacerbating longstanding tensions with some local governments and the federal government over immigration enforcement, while also prompting others to alter their policies." However, "Raising the loudest alarms for immigrant advocates and law enforcement alike" is a new Texas law that "penalizes sheriffs, constables, police chiefs, and other local leaders who don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities or prevent rank-and-file officers from asking about immigration status." The Atlantic says police chiefs are "concerned that the bill could ultimately intrude upon the way they set day-to-day priorities."

COLUMBUS, OHIO APPROVES ORDINANCE WITH IMMIGRANT PROTECTIONS. The AP (6/6) reports the Columbus, Ohio, City Council has approved an ordinance that "makes it against the law in Columbus to arrest or deny someone services based on their immigration status." The AP says the law "reflects other sanctuary city laws across the country," but local officials said Columbus is not a sanctuary city.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL BUCKS DE BLASIO ON IMMIGRANT DEFENSE FUND. The New York Post (6/6, Gonen, 3.82M) reports the New York City Council "insert[ed] a last-minute provision" into the city's fiscal 2018 budget "just says after Mayor de Blasio and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito came to a public deal" on the budget. The mayor "want[ed] to restrict funding for legal services for immigrants facing deportation to only those who have been convicted of minor crimes," but the Council's inserted provision "says the only criteria the city can employ in dispensing the funds – which total $26 million – is a defendant's income."

LABOR DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATING FRAUD IN VISA PROGRAMS. Reuters (6/6, Lynch) reports the Labor Department "said on Tuesday it is stepping up efforts to root out potential fraud in its visa programs for foreign workers, a move that will include increases in both civil investigations as well as criminal referrals." The steps the Department will take "include directing the department's wage and hour division to 'use all its tools' to conduct civil probes," and is "also asking its employment and training office to work on proposing changes to the labor condition application that companies file when they seek to hire foreign guest workers."

CONTINUING COVERAGE: DACA RECIPIENTS ASK SUPREME COURT TO REJECT ARIZONA BID TO REMOVE DRIVER'S LICENSES. The White Mountain (AZ) Independent (6/6, Fischer, 31K) reports, "Advocates for 'dreamers' are urging the nation's high court to reject Arizona's last-ditch bid to take away their licenses to drive." Attorneys for "various groups are asking the justices to leave undisturbed an appellate court ruling which concluded the state acted illegally in refusing to issue licenses to those accepted into the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program."

TEXAS COUNTY VOTES TO JOIN LAWSUIT CHALLENGING STATE'S SANCTUARY CITIES LAW. The San Antonio Express-News (6/6, 844K) reports, "Bexar County commissioners decided Tuesday to join San Antonio's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the state's recently passed 'sanctuary cities' law, set to take effect Sept. 1." The Express-News says, "While the district attorney's office recommended the county take 30 days to study the law for issues unique to Bexar County, commissioners instead wanted to take immediate action against the law they said 'went too far.'"

STEPPED-UP IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT SEEN AS AT ODDS WITH NEEDS OF US

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AGRICULTURE. The Atlantic (6/5, Frank, 21.27M) reports, "Since Donald Trump took office in January, ICE has been newly empowered and encouraged to target undocumented immigrants with criminal records for deportation – a practice that winds up capturing a huge number of undocumented immigrants without criminal records, too." Nonetheless, the Administration has "not actually changed any laws," and the Atlantic contends that "existing immigration legislation has long been at odds with the U.S. economy and with farming communities across the country." A farmer is quoted saying, "The reality is that reports of deportations has farmers scared like I've never seen before."

PRO BONO ORGANIZATION: NEW ICE MENTAL HEALTH EXAM POLICY INTERFERES WITH ABILITY TO REPRESENT CLIENTS PROPERLY. Courthouse News (6/6, Ryan, 2K) reports that The Dilley Pro Bono Project "claims a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy that requires agency approval before lawyers call in mental health evaluations for detainees forces attorneys to choose between properly representing their clients and being able to access the facility that houses them." According to the Project's complaint, the change puts government in control of a key piece of evidence that could aid their clients' asylum cases.

THE GUARDIAN: ELOY JAIL PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS, "MISERY" FOR DETAINEES. The Guardian (UK) (6/6, Carroll, Arizona, 4.07M) reports the town of Eloy, Arizona, "found a new source of revenue" when CoreCivic "built a complex with four prisons" in the area. CoreCivic is "now Eloy's biggest employer and taxpayer, contributing about $2m to its $12m general fund budget." The Guardian says local "support...for the prison, a vital cog in deportation machinery, contrasts with anger at rallies across the US where activists protest [President] Trump's immigration crackdown."

Aviation Security:

TSA CHECKPOINT AT CONNECTICUT AIRPORT TEMPORARILY CLOSED. WVIT-TV New Haven, CT (6/6, 227K) reports on its website, "A TSA security checkpoint at Bradley International Airport was temporarily closed Tuesday afternoon after something concerning came up on an x-ray during screening, according to TSA officials. The checkpoint has since reopened." WVIT says, "Travelers at the checkpoint told NBC Connecticut they saw several state troopers and airport managers in the area, but the situation seemed under control." The WTNH-TV Hartford, CT (6/6, 126K) website reports similarly.

Criminal Investigations:

ICE INVESTIGATING HIGH SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL PROGRAMS. NJ News (6/6, 952K) reports ICE in New Jersey is investigating Paterson Eastside High School's basketball programs, based on the "pipeline of international players who fed the high school's powerhouse boys and girls teams the past six years, according to multiple people inside the school district." ICE will "focu[s] on how the players came to New Jersey, who facilitated their arrival, and when it all began." NJ News says there are multiple agencies investigating allegations of human trafficking with the programs.

Cyber News:

LAWYER FOR MAN CHARGED IN TRUMP HACKING ATTEMPT: PRESIDENT ENCOURAGED HACKING. Politico (6/6, Hefling, 2.46M) reports that attorney Michael Fiser, who is "representing a Louisiana private investigator charged with attempting to hack President Donald Trump's tax returns," is pointing out "that Trump himself had invited a foreign country to hack Hillary Clinton's emails. In a new filing aimed at persuading a judge to dismiss the felony charge against" Jordan Hamlett, Fiser says "that Trump, 'ironically, openly encouraged Russia to hack his opponent.' Last summer, Trump encouraged Russia to help find 'the 30,000 emails that are missing' from the personal server Clinton used during her time as secretary of State." Hamlett

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"was indicted Nov. 10 on a federal felony charge of false representation of a social security number. He has pleaded not guilty."

FIREEYE: FANCY BEAR HACKERS TARGET MONTENEGRO GOVERNMENT. The International Business Times (6/7, Ashok, 814K) details a new report by FireEye that concludes the "Kremlin-linked" hacking group Fancy Bear's latest target is the Montenegro government "to retaliate against the nation's decision to join NATO."

FORMER MI5 CHIEF: NATION-STATE BACKED CYBER ACTIVITIES "DIFFICULT" FOR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO DEAL WITH. ZDNet (6/6, Palmer, 151K) reports, "The threat of cyber-espionage and nation-state backed hacking has loomed long over elections around the globe in the past year, but it's still not clear how to tackle it, according to a former head of the UK's security service." Former MI5 director general Dame Stella Rimington is quoted saying at the Infosecurity Europe conference in London, "We're facing a world with very complex communications which make it very difficult for intelligence agencies to keep chase with the changes which are taking place." ZDNet adds, "However, Rimington also warned against the possibility of knee-jerk reactions in order to defend against new threats, be that from cyber-spies or terrorists."

RUNKLE: ADMINISTRATION SHOULD FOCUS MIDDLE EAST POLICY ON COUNTERING IRAN CYBER THREAT. Benjamin Runkle discusses in Foreign Policy (6/6, Runkle, 359K) the difficulties in "establishing an Arab NATO to contain Iran and fight the Islamic State." Runkle advises, "The Trump administration should narrow its focus and first establish institutions to counter Iran's asymmetric threats. Specifically, it should work with America's [Gulf Cooperation Council] partners to address the threat posed by Tehran's malicious cyber activity." Strengthening the GCC's common cybersecurity efforts "is both necessary and more feasible than replicating NATO's security architecture" because "one area in which Iran's propensity for asymmetric warfare has increasingly been deployed is in the cyber realm." Runkle says the Obama Administration's "cyber initiatives in the region stand out as a rare bright spot" in its Middle East policy, and "The Trump administration should build upon these initiatives and work towards establishing a Gulf Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center comparable to the one run by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security."

UNFILLED CYBERSECURITY JOBS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 3.5 MILLION BY 2021. CSO Magazine (6/6, Morgan, 81K) reports, "A new report out from Cybersecurity Ventures estimates there will be 3.5 million unfilled cybersecurity jobs by 2021, up from 1 million openings last year." CSO also says, "The National Association of Software and Services Companies...recently estimated that India alone will need 1 million cybersecurity professionals by 2020 to meet the demands of its rapidly growing economy." CSO adds, "Despite having the largest information technology talent pool in the world, India is highly unlikely to produce an adequate number of professionals to close the cybersecurity skills gap."

Other DHS News:

DHS HAS NOT DISBURSED CVE GRANT FUNDS TO UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA. WUNC-FM Chapel Hill, NC (6/6, Price, 10K) reports that in January, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill won a CVE grant of nearly $900,000 to "develop information campaigns to counter jihadist and white supremacist recruiting." The award, which was announced in the last week of the Obama Administration, has not been disbursed by the Trump Administration. The grant team "had been told to expect the money in early spring." A DHS spokesman "wrote in an emailed statement that it's unclear whether the money will be released," and "declined to say why the department hasn't sent it." WUNC-FM says Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC) "has filed a formal request with Homeland Security asking why the money hasn't been paid."

PENNSYLVANIA, WASHINGTON GRANTED REAL ID EXTENSIONS. The AP (6/6) reports DHS "extended Tuesday's deadline until July 10 for Pennsylvanians to use their existing state IDs

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to get into certain facilities, including federal prisons." The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (6/6, Esack, 307K) reports the extension will allow DHS time to review whether a recently passed Real ID-compliance law in Pennsylvania "complies with federal standards, said PennDOT spokeswoman Alexis Campbell." In separate coverage, the AP (6/6, Corte) reports, "Even though Washington state officials asked for an extension from compliance from enforcement of federal requirements for state driver's licenses and ID cards through October 2020, they said Tuesday federal officials have informed them that at this point their extension will only be granted through the middle of next month." A state official said DHS will soon announce a July 10 extension for Washington "due to a delay in review of progress of the states on compliance with the 2005 REAL ID Act."

FOURTH CUSTOMS OFFICER ALLEGES HAZING AT NEWARK AIRPORT. On its website, WNBC-TV New York (6/6, Wallace, 338K) reports, "A fourth federal Customs and Border Protection officer has come forward to corroborate accounts of three others who described a pattern of extreme hazing and abuse by co-workers at Newark Airport – allegations first exposed in a bombshell I-Team report last month." The officer "said he was attacked several times beginning in late 2011 in a secure area of Terminal C," and also "said that other officers duct-taped him to a chair so tightly that he was unable to get up." A CBP spokesman, in a prior statement, "told the I-Team the agency is cooperating with the investigation by the Inspector General."

SMALL BUSINESSES LOBBY CONGRESS TO OPPOSE BORDER ADJUSTMENT TAX. Reuters (6/6, Gibson) reports that in meetings scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, "about 60 small business owners and a representative from retailer Big Lots will hold meetings with members of Congress...in an effort to oppose a proposed 'border adjustment tax.'" White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short "said on Monday in a briefing with reporters that tax rate cuts remained a priority, a signal that sweeping tax reform could be dropped in favor of just reducing tax levels." Reuters says the "future of the tax remains shaky" as "President Donald Trump has refused to endorse it and many Republicans in the House and Senate are opposed."

CFDA AWARDS SPEAKERS PROMOTE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS. In its "Fashion & Style" section, the New York Times (6/6, Friedman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that on Monday night at the annual Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) Awards in New York, speakers advocated expanded rights for immigrants. Council Chairwoman Diane von Furstenberg "asked all of the immigrants in the room to raise their hands (there were a lot)," and actress Janelle "Monáe riffed on Hillary Clinton's 'women's rights are human rights' speech," saying, "L.G.B.T.Q. rights are human rights; immigrant rights are human rights; minority rights are human rights." The Times comments, "If ever anyone wanted to make an argument for the importance of immigration, of cross-border fertilization, of the absence of walls and of the renewal and rebirth that comes from an outside perspective, they could do worse than to turn to the 2017 CFDA awards."

GERSTEIN: TRUMP BUDGET PROPOSAL CUTS DHS BIOTERRORISM LAB, RISKS PROTECTION FROM THREATS. In the "Pundits Blog" of The Hill (6/6, Gerstein, Contributor, 1.25M), Daniel Gerstein from the RAND Corporation and an adjunct professor at American University, says President Trump's proposed 2018 budget eliminates a "Department of Homeland Security laboratory dedicated to countering bioterrorism and providing the science behind response and recovery efforts should an attack occur." The lab, known as the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC) at Fort Detrick, would be closed by September 2018 under the proposed budget. The piece says, "NBACC remains a one-of-a-kind facility that provides the U.S. an insurance policy. Its work can help determine how a variety of actors, from lone wolf terrorists to well-financed terror cells, could develop and deploy biological weapons against American targets. It allows experts to work in the highest containment laboratories with the most dangerous pathogens to protect the nation from a strategic threat, one that some have called 'the poor man's atomic bomb.'"

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OPINION: IMMIGRANTS DETAINED ARE KEPT IN "INHUMANE CONDITIONS." In an op-ed for the OC (CA) Weekly (6/6, Urrea, 209K), Stefany Urrea, with the "activist group" Orange County Immigrant Youth United, describes her visits to the Santa Ana Jail as part of a "visiting program" to speak with detainees. Urrea said the visits showed her the "inhumane conditions" immigrants are kept in at detention centers. She opines that immigrants "come to the U.S. fleeing economic and social distress to only face the trauma of confinement." Urrea concludes, "My jail visits this year convinced me more than ever that it's imperative to advocate for the release of all immigrants and create programs that will successfully integrate them into society where they belong: not behind bars."

Terrorism Investigations:

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: TERRORISTS NOW ACTING WITH "LETHAL SIMPLICITY." Under the headline "Terrorists Deliver Their Message With Lethal Simplicity," the New York Times (6/6, Shane, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that since 9/11, "the death tolls in individual attacks in the West have remained relatively modest, partly because the assailants have learned that they do not need anthrax or dirty bombs to disrupt capitals, terrify tourists, rivet the attention of governments and impress potential recruits." Rather, "all they need is a gun, or, if that is too hard to acquire, a truck and a knife." Moreover, their "plotting, encouraged and sometimes directed by the Islamic State, is difficult to detect even with robust intelligence and law enforcement surveillance." Recent attacks, warns the Times, "seem a harbinger of further mayhem, especially at a time when the slow strangulation of the Islamic State...means that more young Westerners drawn to its cause are left to plot havoc at home."

TRUMP NOTIFIES CONGRESS 20,000 US TROOPS DEPLOYED ON COUNTER-TERROR MISSIONS. The Washington Times (6/6, Boyer, 272K) reports that, in a letter required by law, President Trump notified Congress that 20,000 US troops are deployed "around the world in counter-terrorism operations." Almost 8,500 are in Afghanistan, and "Trump is considering a recommendation from the Pentagon to deploy as many as 5,000 more troops" there following recent Taliban gains. Additionally, more than 5,200 troops are advising and assisting Iraqi forces against ISIS, and about 2,850 are in Jordan supporting counter-ISIS operations and providing regional stability. Trump wrote that the US has "been successful in seriously degrading al Qaeda's capabilities."

PARIS ATTACKER YELLS "THIS IS FOR SYRIA" BEFORE BEING SHOT AND TAKEN BY POLICE. The New York Times (6/6, Breeden, Morenne, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that a French police officer "shot and wounded an assailant armed with a hammer and kitchen knives" outside Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on Tuesday afternoon, according to authorities. Interior Minister Gérard Collomb told reporters the attack occurred "around 4:20 p.m. when the man approached a patrol of three police officers from behind, and started hitting one of them with a hammer." Collomb, notes USA Today (6/6, Abbasi, 5.28M), also "said the attacker cried 'it's for Syria' as he went after the officers."

A Paris police spokesman told the AP (6/6, Sotto, Ganley) that the unidentified attacker was taken to a hospital. Reuters (6/6) reports Collomb said the attacker was carrying "the identification card of an Algerian student," and that "preliminary information indicated" he "had acted alone." The New York Post (6/6, Steinbuch, 3.82M) also says the terrorist "was believed to be an Algerian student."

All three networks noted the attack – and two of them led with it. NBC Nightly News (6/6, lead story, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M) said no group had claimed responsibility for the incident, which reflects "the increasingly simple methods used in other recent terror attacks." ABC World News Tonight (6/6, lead story, 3:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported that during the attack, hundreds were trapped inside the cathedral, including Nancy Soderberg, a former US ambassador to the UN. Soderberg was shown saying, "They made us put our hands up, saying that there may be accomplices there so they're going to search everything. And that's when people got really quiet, and very nervous.

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And that was kind of scary, because people thought there might be one of the attackers inside the church." The CBS Evening News (6/6, story 7, 0:25, Pelley, 11.17M) briefly recounted the day's events.

FLORIDA MAN SET TO PLEAD GUILTY TO ATTEMPTED BOMBING OF SYNAGOGUE. The AP (6/6) reports that James Medina "is set to plead guilty later this month in an alleged plot to bomb a Florida synagogue and Jewish school in support of the Islamic State extremist group." Medina "previously pleaded not guilty to charges of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and to damage religious property." According to the AP, "FBI recordings show Medina allegedly supported the Islamic State group and claimed an obligation to attack Jews in the U.S."

National Security News:

US-BACKED FORCE LAUNCHES GROUND OPERATION TO CAPTURE RAQQA. Reuters (6/6, Said, Perry) reports the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said Tuesday it had launched a battle to capture Raqqa. SDF spokesman Talal Silo told Reuters the operation started Monday and the fighting would be "fierce because Daesh (Islamic State) will die to defend their so-called capital." The AP (6/6, Mroue) reports "opposition activists said US-backed fighters were trying to break into the city from the east, triggering intense clashes."

The Washington Post (6/6, Loveluck, 11.43M) says that while the "groundwork for the offensive has been under way for months...a showdown over the city would be a major test for the US-led coalition." The Post notes that a similar fight against ISIS in Mosul "led to months of intense urban combat." Lt. Gen Steve Townsend, the coalition's commanding general, said, "The fight for Raqqa will be long and difficult." USA Today (6/6, Michaels, 5.28M) reports Townsend said the offensive is necessary to deal a final blow to ISIS. "It's hard to convince new recruits that ISIS is a winning cause when they just lost their twin 'capitals' in both Iraq and Syria," Townsend said in a statement.

The New York Times (6/6, Barnard, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), meanwhile, reports "residents of Raqqa say that in recent weeks numerous Islamic State fighters and their families have left the city, heading southeast along the Euphrates River to the city of Mayadeen, in Deir al-Zour province." ISIS "is expected to make a final stand in the province of Deir al-Zour." The Wall Street Journal (6/6, Abdulrahim, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), among other news outlets, runs a similar report on the Raqqa offensive.

US LAUNCHES AIRSTRIKES AGAINST PRO-GOVERNMENT FORCES IN SYRIA. The AP (6/6, Baldor) reports the US "struck pro-government forces in Syria with airstrikes for the second time in less than three weeks Tuesday, declaring them a threat to anti-Islamic State coalition fighters and allied troops training at a camp in the south of the country." The AP adds that "the assault came after complicated and messy discussions that reflected Syria's difficult battlefield and the wide array of forces fighting for a piece of the embattled country." Reuters (6/6) reports the US-backed coalition said in a statement, "Despite previous warnings, pro-regime forces entered the agreed-upon de-confliction zone with a tank, artillery, anti-aircraft weapons, armed technical vehicles and more than 60 soldiers." The Washington Post (6/6, Gibbons-Neff, 11.43M), among other news outlets, also reports on the strike.

AS AFGHAN PEACE TALKS GET UNDERWAY, GHANI CALLS ON TALIBAN TO JOIN. The AP (6/6) reports Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday again invited the Taliban to peace talks, calling it their "last chance" to give up their insurgency and join the political process. Ghani spoke at the opening of the so-called Kabul Process, a gathering of 23 nations, the EU, UN and NATO "intended to discuss security and political issues in the country." The Washington Post (6/6, Gowen, Salahuddin, 11.43M) reports Ghani "said Tuesday that his country is under siege from both the Taliban and the Islamic State but is also enmeshed in an 'undeclared' war" with Pakistan. He urged the international community to "make good on its promise" to end state-sponsored terrorism.

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TILLERSON SAYS TRUMP INSTRUCTED HIM TO REBUILD RUSSIA TIES DESPITE ELECTION PROBE. Reuters (6/6, Costa, Greenfield) reports Secretary of State Tillerson said Tuesday that President Trump told him probes into links between his advisers and Russia should not undermine US efforts to rebuild relations with Moscow. Asked in New Zealand if he is concerned about the probes, Tillerson said, "I can't really comment on any of that because I don't have any direct knowledge," but "the president's been clear to me: do not let what's happened over here in the political realm prevent you from the work that you need to do on this relationship."

Russia Says It Intercepted US Bomber Near Its Airspace. The AP (6/6) reports the Russian Defense Ministry said Tuesday that one of its fighter jets intercepted an American strategic bomber flying near the border of Russian airspace. In a statement, the ministry said Su-27 jets were scrambled over the Baltic Sea on Tuesday morning after a B-52 was detected. Capt. Joe Alonso, a spokesman for US European Command, "said he could not confirm the report."

The Washington Times (6/6, Ernst, 272K) says "the incident appears to be a bit of tit-for-tat posturing, as U.S. fighter jets intercepted Russian aircraft off the coast of Alaska in April and May." Reuters (6/6, Osborn, Solovyov) reports "NATO members such as Britain regularly report scrambling jets to intercept Russian nuclear-capable bombers flying close to their air space." It is "less common," however, "for Russia to report using its fighters for the same reason."

CITING ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS, HALEY WARNS US WEIGHING LEAVING UN RIGHTS COUNCIL. The New York Times (6/6, Cumming-Bruce, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Ambassador Haley called on Tuesday for the UN Human Rights Council "to make significant changes in how it operates and to cease passing what it said were 'biased' resolutions aimed at Israel," but she "stopped short of threatening to pull out of the body." In the "first high-level engagement" between the council and the US since President Trump took office, Haley "told the council that Washington was 'looking carefully at its participation' but was focused on the need to ensure that any state that abused human rights would not be allowed to join the organization." The Washington Post (6/6, Gearan, 11.43M) says Haley delivered "the terse ultimatum in an unusual address" in Geneva, and that her "decision to make her case in person was intended to underscore US frustration."

THAI JUNTA CHIEF TO VISIT WHITE HOUSE NEXT MONTH. Reuters (6/6, Hariraksapitak) reports that the leader of Thailand's military junta, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, will visit the White House in July, a Thai government spokesman said Monday. Reuters says the invitation by President Trump "could signal a step by the United States toward re-establishing normal diplomatic relations with Thailand."

KERRY WARNS IMPOSING NEW IRAN SANCTIONS COULD BE DANGEROUS. The AP (6/6, Rodriguez) reports former Secretary of State John Kerry warned Monday that the Iran nuclear deal "could hold" even if President Trump pulls out, but warned that imposing new economic sanctions against Tehran could be dangerous. Kerry said, "If we become super provocative in ways that show the Iranian people there has been no advantage to this, that there is no gain, and our bellicosity is pushing them into a corner, that's dangerous and that could bring a very different result."

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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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Leading DHS News:

HOUSE SPENDING BILL ALLOWS DACA RECIPIENTS TO GET GOVERNMENT JOBS. Breitbart (7/14, Munro, 2.16M) reports the House Appropriations Committee on Friday approved a spending bill that would make it possible for immigrants to "win jobs in President Donald Trump's agencies or in government-owned workplaces." The bill includes a provision that changes "an Obama-era rule barring DACA beneficiaries from working directly for the federal government." A statement from the pro-American Federation for American Immigration Reform says, "Last night's action by the Republican-led House Appropriations Committee making illegal aliens eligible for federal jobs is yet another example of why President Trump must honor his campaign pledge and repeal President [Barack] Obama's unconstitutional Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program." The bill still requires approval from the full House and Senate.

KELLY SAYS ADMINISTRATION MAY LET LEGAL CHALLENGES DEFEAT DACA. Fox News (7/14, Doocy, 13.56M) reports that Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly met with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus this week "to alert them that the Trump Administration may stand by and let legal challenges defeat the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program." Rep. Joaquin Castro said of the meeting in a Fox News interview, "I was encouraged that Secretary Kelly said he personally supports the DACA policy. ... But, you know, also discouraged that he couldn't say the administration would defend it or not." According to Fox, "ire across the aisle is now directed at Secretary Kelly," with Rep. Luis Gutierrez blasting Kelly for "trying to make a fool out of us by trying to say, 'oh it's the courts.'"

Fox News' Special Report's (7/14, 6:05 p.m. EDT, 5:24, Baier, 1.53M) Bret Baier similarly reported "there are concerns among immigration advocates tonight that supporters of the so-called Dreamer rule could be in for a rude awakening" because Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly suggested the Administration may allow legal challenges threatened by 10 states defeat the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Correspondent Peter Doocey said some Democratic lawmakers "are accusing Secretary Kelly" of "not doing his job by not promising to defend DACA."

WPOST A1: ADMINISTRATION WEIGHS PROPOSAL TO EXPAND DHS'S DEPORTATION

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POWERS. The Washington Post (7/14, A1, Hauslohner, Nakamura, 12.92M) reports on its front page that the Administration is considering a new policy that would expand the Department of Homeland Security's deportation powers. Under a 2004 directive, the agency is "authorized to bypass immigration courts only for immigrants who had been living in the country illegally for less than two weeks and were apprehended within 100 miles of the border." The Administration's current proposal would allow DHS to "seek the expedited removal of illegal immigrants apprehended anywhere in the United States who cannot prove they have lived in the country continuously for more than 90 days, according to a 13-page internal agency memo obtained by The Washington Post." However, DHS spokeswoman Joanne F. Talbot said the proposal is just a draft and that no final decision has been made by Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly.

DHS RELEASES REVISED SECURITY DIRECTIVE TO AIRLINES WORLDWIDE. Reuters (7/14, Shepardson) reports the Department of Homeland Security on Friday issued a revised directive for airlines worldwide following requests for clarification over mandated aviation security measures set to take effect next week. According to Transportation Security Administration spokesman, James Gregory, "This clarifying update will strengthen global aviation security and is a testament to our shared commitment to raising the baseline." According to officials, the directive includes technical adjustments, enhanced passenger screenings and increased security protocols. However, an airline official said it does now give "airlines more flexibility and additional time to obtain explosive trace detection equipment." Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly unveiled the security measures on June 28.

CBP LIMITS BORDER AGENTS ABILITY TO SEARCH TRAVELER DEVICES. The Washington Post (7/14, Fung, 12.92M) reports that US customs agents may become limited in their ability to check through the contents of travelers smart phones and electronic devices. A letter from CBP Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan to Sen. Ron Wyden dated June 20 indicates that "Border officials can only look through the portions of your phone in which data has been kept locally on the device's physical storage." Searches cannot legally include any request for data from a remote server, only data already downloaded onto a device. These searches have been the "subject of mounting scrutiny this spring," following Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly's February comments to lawmakers that foreign travelers should be ready to hand over their social media passwords.

Border Wall:

TRUMP SAYS BORDER WALL MUST BE TRANSPARENT BECAUSE SMUGGLERS CATAPULT DRUGS. The Washington Post (7/14, Ingraham, 12.92M) reports that while speaking with reporters on Air Force One on Monday, President Trump said his proposed border wall on the US-Mexico border would need to be "transparent" so that Americans could avoid being hit and killed by heavy sacks of drugs being thrown from the Mexican side. He said, "One of the things with the wall is you need transparency. You have to be able to see through it." The Post says that though Trump admitted the scenario sounded somewhat "crazy," there is "a kernel of truth to it" as drug smugglers for decades "have employed an arsenal of sometimes cartoonish tactics — from tricycles to narco-subs to drone delivery — to ferry their wares north of the border." A drug catapult, or trebuchet, is one such tactic.

TRUMP "NOT JOKING" ABOUT BORDER WALL COVERED IN SOLAR PANELS. Breitbart (7/14, Shaw, 2.16M) reports that President Trump on Thursday said that he was "not joking" when remarking to reporters on "a plan to cover the planned wall on the southern border with solar panels." Trump made the initial comments to reporters on Air Force One while traveling to Paris last Wednesday. He said, "There is a chance that we can do a solar wall. We have major companies looking at that. Look, there's no better place for solar than the Mexico border." House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy told the Wall Street Journal, "I think it's innovative." Las Vegas contractor, Thomas Gleason, also told NBC that his company had submitted a formal proposal for a wall covered in solar panels. Gleason noted, "There's no place to grab. There are no holes. There's no gap more than three millimeters."

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GALLEGO DENOUNCES PROPOSED BORDER WALL. Rep. Ruben Gallego on CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 5:20 p.m. EDT, 20:10, Acosta, 554K) discussed President Trump's remarks about limiting the scope of his proposed border wall. Gallego said the proposal to install a solar wall "is absolutely ridiculous" and "shows you where his head is, the fact that he's willing to think of a border wall. It's not a serious issue. For him he's just throwing that out to his base and just trying to bring in all these elements. It sounds like someone trying to build the perfect castle. Let's just throw a solar wall on top of that." Gallego added a border fence will not "solve" the security problems and is "only going to be a waste of money. ... This is a ridiculous idea and he should drop it altogether." He continued, "We shouldn't be spending any US taxpayer money on it because he promised Mexico was going to pay for it. ... Trump is going back again on his word and will try to make American taxpayers pay."

Immigration Policy:

SESSIONS VOWS TO APPEAL AFTER JUDGE EXPANDS EXEMPTIONS FROM TRUMP TRAVEL ORDER. The New York Times (7/14, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports the Administration vowed Friday to appeal after Judge Derrick Watson of Federal District Court in Honolulu on Thursday ruled President Trump's executive travel order "should not prevent grandparents and other close relatives of residents from entering the United States." Watson also "declared that refugees with ties to a resettlement agency that was committed to receiving them had a relationship that made them eligible to enter the country." The Times says this decision "could open the gates for thousands of refugees who have been cleared to enter the United States but who lacked the close relationships as defined by the Trump administration."

The Wall Street Journal (7/14, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) calls Watson's ruling is a legal blow to Trump, just two weeks after the Supreme Court allowed the partial implementation of the travel order. The justices said the Administration could not ban those with bona fide relationship to people and organizations in the US, but the Administration narrowly defined what relationships counted as bona fide. Watson wrote, "The Government's definition of close familial relationship is not only not compelled by the Supreme Court's June 26 decision, but contradicts it."

According to Watson's ruling, grandparents and other extended relatives are now exempt from the travel order, the Washington Post (7/14, Zapotosky, 12.92M) reports. Watson additionally wrote, "Common sense, for instance, dictates that close family members be defined to include grandparents. ... Indeed, grandparents are the epitome of close family members. The Government's definition excludes them. That simply cannot be." In a statement, Attorney General Sessions said, "By this decision, the district court has improperly substituted its policy preferences for the national security judgments of the Executive branch in a time of grave threats, defying both the lawful prerogatives of the Executive Branch and the directive of the Supreme Court." He also indicated the Justice Department would "reluctantly return directly to the Supreme Court to again vindicate the rule of law and the Executive Branch's duty to protect the nation."

LAWYERS FOR DEPORTED DREAMER FILE DOCUMENTS DISPUTING DHS ACCOUNT. USA Today (7/14, Gomez, 10.05M) reports lawyers for 23-year-old Juan Manuel Montes, the "only known DREAMer deported by the Trump Administration," filed statements in court on Friday from those on both sides of the border corroborating Montes' account "that immigration agents wrongly forced him across the border." According to Montes, he was seized by agents after having dinner with a friend and was then forced across the border. The Department of Homeland Security, however, "said it has no record that agents deported Montes that night." Rather, the agency indicates that "Montes crossed the border into Mexico voluntarily, immediately revoking his DACA status, which shields undocumented immigrants brought to the country as children."

AFGHAN GIRLS ROBOTICS TEAM MEMBERS EN ROUTE FOR US. The Los Angeles Times

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(7/14, Faizy, Bengali, 4.57M) reports the six Afghan high schoolers on a girls robotics team boarded a plane on Friday bound for the US, after having initially been denied visas to attend a global robotics competition in Washington, DC. The Times says that, though State Department officials did not comment on the case, "experts peculated that consular officers could have denied the visas out of concern that the girls could attempt to remain in the United States." The Trump Administration intervened at the "last-minute" to grant the girls visas. In a statement, former Rep. Joe Sestak, whose organization First Global is hosting the competition, said, "I am most grateful to the U.S. government and its State Department for ensuring Afghanistan, as well as Gambia, would be able to join us for this international competition this year."

Immigration Enforcement:

CALIFORNIA JUDGE PUSHES TO START MURDER TRIAL OF UNDOCUMENTED CONVICT. The AP (7/14, Elias) reports that a judge on Friday ordered 54-year-old Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, who is accused of killing Kate Steinle, back to court in "the hope that an open courtroom can be found in San Francisco superior court" to start his trial. Lopez-Sanchez was convicted five-times for illegal re-entry into the US when he was released by the San Francisco Sheriff's office following the dismissal of a minor marijuana charge, and despite a detainer request issued by Immigration and Custom's Enforcement. The Trump Administration has "seized" on his case in arguing "for tougher immigration enforcement and for the abolition of so-called sanctuary cities like San Francisco."

Emergency Response:

CONGRESS CONSIDERING CHANGES TO NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM. McClatchy (7/14, Leavenworth, 95K) reports that Congress is considering changes to the National Flood Insurance Program, which could lead to increased rates for hundreds of thousands of homeowners. The piece says the proposal is "part of a flood-insurance package," the 21st Century Flood Reform Act introduced by Rep. Sean Duffy, which "could prove costly to homeowners in flood-prone regions ranging from Florida to Texas to California's Central Valley." At issue in the bill is the "program's practice of 'grandfathering' premiums," in which homeowners are allowed to pay lower insurance rates "even when the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, changes its maps to account for newly discovered risks."

Illinois Governor "Flounders" In Public Response To Flooding Disaster. Politico (7/14, Korecki, 2.97M) reports that the first-term Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner "has floundered in his public response — or the lack thereof — to devastating flooding in his state." According to the piece, Lake County in northern Illinois "was battered by a torrent of rain that prompted evacuation of residences in several communities." As of Thursday, "numerous roads remained closed," including "in Gurnee, where large sinkholes formed in the highway." On Friday, the National Weather Service reported, "Record flooding is occurring and Record flooding is forecast." Democratic state Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch tweeted, "Has anyone seen our Governor during this massive flooding disaster in Lake County? #LeadershipMatters."

Severe Storms Lead To Flash Flood Warnings Across Plains, Northeast. ABC World News Tonight (7/14, story 4, 1:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported that severe storms on Friday have resulted in "flash flood watches from Ohio all the way over to New York." Correspondent Gio Benitez said that "powerful storms [are] moving east, threatening millions. ... This time lapse showing severe weather moving through Washington, DC. Blinding rain for Virginia drivers. East of Columbus, Ohio, high water shutting down part of interstate 70 today. Parts of the Midwest reeling from multiple rounds of rain."

Meteorologist Rob Marciano of ABC World News Tonight (7/14, story 5, 0:45, Muir, 14.63M) reported that "There are some rough storms moving through Maryland and Delaware. These have 50- to 60-mile-an-hour wind gusts. And the ongoing flood threat, up the Lehigh Valley into

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the Finger Lakes."

"Parts of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois are already flooded," the CBS Evening News (7/14, story 5, 1:45, Mason, 11.17M) similarly reported. According to correspondent David Begnaud, "Authorities say two months of rain have fallen in just 12 hours here in Gurnee, north of Chicago. It's not uncommon to see flooding here, but 1.6 trillion gallons of water fell this week on portions of Wisconsin and Illinois, where Bruce Rauner is the governor."

"The worst may still not be over tonight in parts of the upper Midwest hit hard by severe storms," NBC Nightly News (7/14, story 4, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M) additionally reported. States of emergency have been declared in both northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, with millions "at risk of more heavy rain and damaging winds as the dangerous weather system moves east."

Cyber News:

HOUSE BLOCKS LAW ALLOWING SEIZURE OF CLOUD-STORED DATA WITHOUT WARRANT. The Hill (7/14, Uchill, 1.61M) reports the House Appropriations Committee on Thursday blocked a law that allows "law enforcement to seize emails, photographs and other cloud-hosted documents without a warrant." Currently, a 1986 law allows law enforcement officers the ability to "demand any file stored on a third-party server for more than 180 days." However, the Hill says the Electronic Communications and Privacy Act (ECPA) "passed into law in a world where use of cloud-type servers was rare and not used as a replacement for storing files locally." Rep. Kevin Yoder said, "Americans have a reasonable expectation of privacy in their emails and text messages and if the Senate and the [Securities and Exchange Commission] refuse to recognize that, Republicans and Democrats in the House will work together to force their hand by adding this language to our must-pass spending bill."

WPOST: CONGRESS MUST ADDRESS LAW GIVING IMMUNITY TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING WEBSITES. The Washington Post (7/14, 12.92M) editorializes "something must be done" about revelations that have emerged regarding Backpage.com, which is accused of "facilitating child sex trafficking and exploitation." While the website has said that it has been "a passive host of third-party content and had no control over its sex-related ads," documents obtained by the Post indicate a Philippines-based contractor for the website "has been aggressively soliciting and creating sex-related ads for the website." The Post argues that the website has been given immunity through "the 1996 Communications Decency Act," which affords "third-party hosts such as Backpage wide-ranging immunity for content posted by its users." It concludes Congress must "see if it can amend the act without infringing on First Amendment rights, or if passing some other preventive measure is more viable."

WPOST A1: SILICON VALLEY USES TECHNOLOGY TO COMBAT GROWING SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROBLEM. In a front-page article, the Washington Post (7/14, A1, Dwoskin, 12.92M) reports that some Silicon Valley leaders have devised a new way to deal with the "burgeoning sexual harassment crisis," which is to "use technology to create a blacklist." The influential start-up incubator Y Combinator emailed a reporting form to 3,500 entrepreneurs, urging them "to blow the whistle on sexual harassment by venture capitalists." Y Combinator partner Kat Manalac said, "We don't call it a blacklist, but that is essentially what is happening. ... There has always been a whisper network, where investors and entrepreneurs know which other investors are bad actors." According to the Post, this effort by Y Combinator and others is "part of the industry's urgent search for answers in the wake of sexual harassment scandals that have cemented Silicon Valley's reputation as hostile to women."

Terrorism Investigations:

LAWYER FOR US ARMY SERGEANT ACCUSED OF SUPPORTING ISIS SUGGESTS ENTRAPMENT. Reuters (7/14, Haskins) reports Nirney Bervar, the lawyer for US Army sergeant

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Ikaika Erik Kang, who is accused of trying to provide material support to ISIS, "said on Thursday his client suffers from mental illness that FBI agents exploited in a 'sting' operation leading to his arrest." Reuters adds the FBI maintains Kang was "reprimanded several times dating back to 2011 for threatening fellow service members and expressing extremist views while on duty." Kang "became the target of what the FBI described in its affidavit as an elaborate sting operation employing several undercover agents and other 'confidential human sources' who posed as Islamic State operatives and sympathizers." However, Bervar said, "It looks to me like they've exploited his mental illness and thrown gasoline on the fire of his mental illness to get him to commit a crime that they could arrest him for."

VIRGINIA MAN GETS MAXIMUM SENTENCE ON GUN CHARGE AFTER THREAT OF TERRORIST ATTACK. The Washington Post (7/14, Weiner, 12.92M) reports that 26-year-old Yusuf Wehelie of Fairfax County, Virginia was sent to prison for a decade following a threat made to an FBI agent, in which said that if he could not join ISIS he would massacre military recruits, especially Marines. He said, "Go to work, kill as much people as I can. ... If I'm going to do that, I want to do a lot of damage, and I don't want to get one guy. I want to get, like, 20 of them." On Friday, Judge Gerald Bruce Lee sentenced Wehelie to "the maximum allowed by law," though the Post says "It is a punishment far harsher than Wehelie's actual crime — possession of firearms by a felon." According to an FBI counterterrorism agent, Jeffrey Ringel, "Sometimes hands are forced . . . and investigators have to act before they want to."

National Security News:

TRUMP, SAUDI ARABIA'S KING SALMAN DISCUSS QATARI CRISIS. Reuters (7/14, Rampton) reports President Trump spoke with Saudi Arabia's King Salman by phone on Friday about efforts to "resolve the month-long dispute between Qatar and four Gulf Arab states, the White House said." Reuters notes the discussion followed Secretary of State Tillerson's visit to the region.

The AP (7/14) reports Tillerson ended his "shuttle diplomacy" mission on Thursday. While he made "no promise of an imminent breakthrough," Tillerson voiced "optimism that Qatar and its neighbors might soon be willing to talk face to face." Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, at a joint news conference with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Friday, remarked, "There is no criterion or evidence that indicates that (Tillerson's visit) was a failure," but "such a tense crisis" cannot "be solved in a day." Cavusoglu told reporters that he believes a resolution may be possible "in the mid-term."

TWO ISRAELI OFFICERS KILLED IN TEMPLE MOUNT ATTACK. Fox News' Special Report's (7/14, 6:14 p.m. EDT, 14:19, Baier, 1.53M) Bret Baier reported "tensions in Jerusalem are high" after two Israeli security officers were killed Friday in "an attack inside a major holy site for both Jews and Muslims," the Temple Mount Compound in Jerusalem's Old City. ABC World News Tonight (7/14, story 6, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported surveillance footage from the Temple Mount depicted "the moment three heavily armed Palestinians rush in, killing two Israeli police officers. The attackers are then shot dead in the fierce gun battle that follows."

The Washington Post (7/14, Booth, 12.92M) reports David Friedman, the US Ambassador to Israel, responded to the attack in a tweet that read, "Shocked and horrified by the despicable attack today in Jerusalem. Terrorism must be condemned by all and defeated. We pray for the victims." Later on Friday, Israeli authorities "still blocked access to the mosque area because of security concerns," a "rare closure" that "marked the first time in years that Israeli authorities stopped Muslims of all ages from attending Friday prayers at the holy site." The Wall Street Journal (7/14, Shekter-Porat, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) notes Netanyahu ordered the closure based on his top security officials' assessments of the security situation.

The New York Times (7/14, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) calls the holy site's closure "an exceptional and potentially explosive measure," and adds that in an apparent "effort

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to calm the atmosphere," Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas called Netanyahu to both condemn the attack and urge him to reopen the holy site. According to Netanyahu's office, the Prime Minister told Abbas that the Israeli government will "take all the necessary actions to maintain security on the Temple Mount, without changing the status quo."

Nonetheless, on NBC Nightly News (7/14, story 7, 1:25, Holt, 16.61M), former US Ambassador to Morocco Marc Ginsberg cautioned, "There's a real chance that this could lead to more demonstrations and, therefore, more violence in Jerusalem."

TWO GERMAN WOMEN FATALLY STABBED AT EGYPTIAN RESORT. The Washington Post (7/14, Mahfouz, 12.92M) reports an assailant fatally stabbed two German women and wounded four other foreign female tourists in attacks on two Egyptian hotels in Hurghada, a Red Sea resort. Egyptian authorities arrested the suspected assailant, and Germany's Embassy in Cairo is collaborating "with Egyptian authorities to gain clarity about the identity of the individuals involved." Some witnesses maintained the assailant seemingly targeted women, but others said they do not believe the suspect is a terrorist.

The New York Times (7/14, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) says Friday's knife attacks came amid "a modest revival" of Egypt's "battered tourism industry," which serves as "a vital source of foreign currency" in the nation. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

MATTIS SAYS DEATH OF ISIS LEADER BAGHDADI UNCONFIRMED. Reuters (7/14, Ali) reports the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said earlier this week that it "confirmed information" about ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's death; however, Defense Secretary Mattis said Friday, "Right now, I can't confirm or deny it." Mattis continued, "Our approach is we assume that he's alive until it is proven otherwise, and right now, I can't prove it otherwise." Meanwhile, Mattis said, the ceasefire in southwestern Syria appears to be holding so far. He said the ceasefire is "something that we will support obviously, but right now, we don't have any equity in it, that is a State Department, diplomatic lead, President to President effort."

US JUDGE EXPEDITES WATCHDOG'S REQUESTS FOR LEGAL BASIS OF STRIKES IN SYRIA. Politico (7/14, Gerstein, 2.97M) reports in its "Under The Radar" blog that US District Court Judge Christopher Cooper, in a 14-page opinion on Thursday, ordered the State, Justice, and Defense Departments to expedite their responses to the Protect Democracy Project's Freedom of Information Act requests related to the Administration's legal justification for air strikes against Syria in April. "If production is unduly delayed, both Protect Democracy and the public at large will be 'precluded ... from obtaining in a timely fashion information vital to the current and ongoing debate surrounding the legality of' a high-profile government action ... namely, military strikes against the Syrian government," wrote Cooper. He also pointed to "another potential harm, too: The possibility for the strikes to recur without legal justification. By then, any damage will have been done."

DESPITE VICTORY IN MOSUL, US-BACKED IRAQI FORCES CONTINUE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISIS. Reuters (7/14, Kalin, Hassan) reports that in the four days since Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory over ISIS in Mosul's Old City, Iraqi forces backed by US-led coalition airstrikes have "hit further pockets of resistance" in and around Mosul. ISIS "still controls areas south and west of Mosul inhabited by" 20,000 people, according to a United Nations estimate on Friday. Reuters says securing long-term peace and stability in Iraq will be difficult because "Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi faces the challenge of preventing revenge killings that could create more instability, as well as stemming the sectarian tensions and ethnic strife that have dogged Iraq since a U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003."

Physicians Discuss Treating Victims Of Battle For Mosul. NBC Nightly News' (7/14, story 8, 2:30, Holt, 16.61M) Richard Engel reported, "Iraq won the battle against ISIS here in Mosul, but victims are still pouring in. And still treating them in an abandoned butcher shop is Pete Reed from New Jersey." Reed, a 28-year-old EMT, "dropped everything to move to this war zone, and

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with a friend, made treating the wounded of this city his life's mission." Reed told NBC News, "At the end of it, they always talk about how many people died. We wanted that number just to be a little bit less. And if nothing else, we did that." Reed and his team of nearly 20 have treated between 7,000 and 10,000 people. Engel added Dr. Aziz Al Kasab, "an Iraqi doctor working" with Reed, was "in Mosul when ISIS began its reign of terror. They forced him into service in one of the city's main hospitals, where he's now returned to work."

US ENVOY WARNS AGAINST SEPTEMBER KURDISH INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM. Bloomberg News (7/14, Abu-Nasr, 3.08M) reports Brett McGurk, the US envoy to the coalition against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, said he cautioned Iraqi and Kurdish leaders last week against holding a September independence referendum in Iraq's semi-autonomous, oil-rich Kurdish region. "Having a referendum on such a fast timeline, particularly in disputed areas, would be, we think, significantly destabilizing and we've made those views very clear," McGurk told reporters at a Thursday press conference. He said despite its defeat in Mosul, ISIS still occupies territory in Iraq. Bloomberg notes the Iraqi government is also opposed to a Kurdish independence referendum.

NYTIMES A1: US MARINES IMPLEMENT CHANGED APPROACH TO MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN. The New York Times (7/14, A1, Mashal, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports on its front page that US Marines' mission in Afghanistan's Helmand Province "is no longer about complete control," but instead about keeping "Lashkar Gah from falling to the Taliban, and to help the Afghan forces come out of their barracks and put up a fight." Pentagon "leaders have studiously refused to talk about timetables," and the Marines have "no clearly defined strategy to end the war – other than hoping to persuade the Taliban to give up and eventually talk of peace." Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Dunford Jr. simplified the mission by stating "more simply: 'We are staying,'" which the Post says reflects "a broader American unease and confusion about being pulled back into the Afghan fight."

US DRONE STRIKE KILLS LEADER OF ISIS-AFFILIATE IN AFGHANISTAN. CNN's Situation Room's (7/14, 6:58 p.m. EDT, 58:27, Acosta, 554K) Ryan Brown reported the leader of an ISIS-affiliated faction in Afghanistan was reportedly "killed in a drone strike earlier this month by US forces." He is "the third ISIS leader in Afghanistan to be killed within a year, demonstrating the US has a renewed push, along with its Afghan allies," that is "yielding some successful results." Defense Secretary Mattis told CNN that the strike was an obvious victory for the US as it intensifies its aggressive campaign against the ISIS affiliate. Brown noted "US military commanders say they have eliminated over half of the local fighters for this group, as well as reducing two-thirds of its territory, restricting it to this isolated remote part of Afghanistan right there on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border."

The Wall Street Journal (7/14, Lubold, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) reports chief Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White identified the ISIS leader as Abu Sayed, and said other ISIS-K members were also killed in the strike, which she said will "significantly disrupt the terror group's plans to expand its presence in Afghanistan." White added, "Afghan and U.S. forces launched a counter-ISIS-K offensive in early March 2017 to drive fighters from Nangarhar and send a clear message to ISIS that there is no sanctuary for their fighters in Afghanistan."

The Washington Post (7/14, Gibbons-Neff, 12.92M) says if Sayed's death is confirmed, it will mark "another setback for the terror group in Afghanistan," which has been "under constant bombardment and hemorrhaging leadership." According to the Pentagon, ISIS-K's presence in Afghanistan has dropped form an estimated 2,500 fighters in 2015 to less than 1,000. Despite those challenges, the Post says, ISIS-K "has managed to keep a foothold in the country."

PUTIN SAYS HE HOPES FOR ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH TRUMP. Reuters (7/14, Soldatkin) reports that on Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin praised President Trump's ability to "listen" and that he "reacts to the interlocutor's reasoning." Putin added that he hopes for continued dialogue, and if such talks "were to go on, as you've said in this sense, in a

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humanitarian sense, there is the chance to hope that the dialogue develops further." On the issue of Ukraine, Putin said he hoped it will be resolved "bloodlessly" and through "democratic processes."

Smith, Weber Ask Treasury Department To Investigate Russian Funding Of Anti-Fracking Groups. Breitbart (7/14, Williams, 2.16M) reports House Science, Space and Technology Committee Chairman Lamar Smith and Energy Subcommittee Chairman Randy Weber have asked the Treasury Department to investigate Russian funding of "radical environmental groups" opposed to the US fracking industry. In a letter, they warned that Russia is funding the groups "in an effort to safeguard the influence of the Russian oil and gas sector," and singled out San Francisco-based nonprofit Sea Change, which has received "tens of millions of dollars in" anonymous donations from shell corporations.

Finland Prepares Underground Safe Zone Ahead Of Russia's Military Exercises. The Wall Street Journal (7/14, Grove, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) profiles Finland's more than 124-mile subterranean defense network under the capital city of Helsinki, which in recent years has been adapted to provide enough shelter space to the city's more than 600,000 residents. Finnish soldiers frequently train in the network, and the military has intensified its mission in response to Russia's upcoming Zapad 2017, the nation's largest post-Cold War military exercise this September.

ANALYSTS: EUROPE, US DIVIDED ON APPROACH TO IRAN. The Washington Post (7/14, Cunningham, 12.92M) reports since President Trump took office, the US and Europe "have pursued increasingly different courses on Iran, casting doubt over the future of the nuclear accord." The French government's support for Total's $4.8 billion investment underscores this "clear division," said European Council on Foreign Relations senior policy fellow Ellie Geranmayeh. She said the deal also serves as a message that Europe will not "automatically follow" America's foreign policy decisions. Former Principal Deputy Coordinator for Sanctions Policy Richard Nephew similarly said Europeans "have been pretty open about their commitment to the deal and readiness to counter any U.S. opposition," and that the Total investment in particular "says that the company itself and likely the French government are prepared to battle a U.S. decision to snap back the sanctions for anything less than a very good reason."

US Citizen's Money-Laundering Scheme Underscores Challenges Of Sanctioning Iran. In a nearly 5,000-word article, Politico Magazine (7/14, Dorfman, 2.89M) recalls how US citizen Mitchell Zong, in "a spectacular transnational sanctions-evasion scheme," successfully "laundered more than $1 billion in Iranian government funds over a mere six-month period in 2011," and says "Zong's bizarre tale" underscores "just how fraught" the process of imposing multilateral sanctions against Iran "can be, even when the international community is relatively united." Politico says Zong's "case also points to how difficult, if not outright impossible, re-instituting such multilateral sanctions will be, if President Trump makes good on past threats to pull out of the Iran deal." The Administration would struggle in getting South Korea and Japan "to agree to such measures," says Politico, and "convincing rival states such as China, which is also a major importer of Iranian oil, to revive past sanctions would require a herculean – and at this point, totally uncharacteristic – diplomatic effort on the Trump administration's part."

TROTT SPONSORS MEASURE CAUTIONING STATE DEPARTMENT AGAINST TURKISH ARMS SALE. Rep. Dave Trott sponsored an amendment to the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which the House passed on Friday, that not only "serves as a warning to the State Department that moving forward on an arms deal to Turkey will face heavy congressional scrutiny," but also highlights "continued fallout from the violent brawl that took place outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence in May," according to the Washington Times (7/14, Kelly, 458K). The State Department informally notified Congress in May "of a proposed sale of 1,600 Sig Sauer semi-automatic pistols to Turkish security officers," but for the deal to move forward, "the State Department will be required to formally notify Congress, at which time the House can propose legislation to stop the deal." In a statement, Trott praised NATO allies for taking

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"extraordinary steps against Turkey, and it's time for the State Department to do the same."

Turkish Government Plans Weekend Celebrations To Commemorate Attempted Coup. The Wall Street Journal (7/14, Candemir, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) reports Turkish authorities are planning a national Democracy and National Solidarity Day and weekend of unity-boosting events to commemorate the first anniversary of the July 15 attempted coup; however, the efforts are instead reinforcing deep political divides in several Istanbul neighborhoods. The government's weekend celebration also follows not only the conclusion of a political rally and march organized by opposition Republican People's Party Chairman Kemal Kilicdaroglu, but also the arrest of movie producer Ali Avci on Thursday for allegedly supporting exiled Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen.

Exiled Turkish Cleric Denounces Erdogan On Anniversary Of Coup Attempt. US-based exiled Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, in what the Wall Street Journal (7/14, Cullison, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) calls a rare interview, denounced Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's expansion of authority and post-coup crackdown. Meanwhile, in a Friday news conference commemorating the attempted coup, Turkey's ambassador to the US, Serdar Kilic, asserted "that there are certain measures that the U.S. authorities can take" to limit Gulen's activities, which he said do not constitute "freedom of expression" because "he's accusing the Turkish government, he's sending messages to his supporters in Turkey and he is still traveling."

US THINK TANK: NORTH KOREA POSSESSES MORE PLUTONIUM THAN INITIALLY ESTIMATED. Reuters (7/14, Brunnstrom, Spetalnick) reports the Washington-based North Korean monitoring think tank 38 North said Friday that thermal images of North Korea's primary nuclear site, the Experimental Light Water Reactor, from September until the end of last month revealed at least two previously-unknown plutonium reprocessing cycles capable of producing "an undetermined amount of plutonium that can further increase North Korea's nuclear weapons stockpile." The think tank said the thermal patterns indicated the isotope/tritium production site is not currently operational, but "could be cause for concern." Meanwhile, Reuters notes, Ambassador Haley is "seeking to overcome resistance from China and Russia to a U.N. Security Council resolution imposing stiffer international sanctions on Pyongyang."

House Democrats "Furious" Over Proposal To Attach North Korean Sanctions To Russia-Iran Bill. The Washington Post (7/14, Demirjian, Debonis, 12.92M) reports House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and other Republican lawmakers are pushing to add a measure to increase sanctions on North Korea to a separate bill that would impose sanctions on Russia and Iran. Democratic lawmakers, however, "are furious at the change, which they see as a last-minute effort by one of the president's closest allies in Congress to derail the Russia-Iran sanctions bill." They argued the move "could further delay the bill's progress through Congress." If Democratic House lawmakers agree to attach the North Korean sanctions package, which they "overwhelmingly" supported in spring, they will likely present "a serious hurdle for the bill in the Senate, where lawmakers have not examined the House's North Korea sanctions bill and will probably want to consider a bipartisan sanctions measure" that Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Patrick J. Toomey introduced this week.

CASTRO DENOUNCES TRUMP'S NEW POLICY ON CUBA. Reuters (7/14, Marsh) reports that on Friday, Cuban President Raul Castro issued "his first public riposte" to President Trump since Trump unveiled his new policy on Cuba last month. Castro denounced what he described as "the manipulation of the topic of human rights against Cuba, that can be proud of much in this area, and does not need to receive lessons from the United States nor anyone." He added that "Cuba and the United States can cooperate and live side by side, respecting their differences," but cautioned "no one should expect that for this, one should have to make concessions inherent to one's sovereignty and independence."

HONG KONG COURT DISMISSES PRO-DEMOCRACY LAWMAKERS FROM OFFICE. On Friday, a local Hong Kong court dismissed four pro-democracy legislators from the Hong Kong

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Legislative Council, a decision that a front-page New York Times (7/14, A1, Wong, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) article says "delivered the struggling movement a severe blow" and granted "China greater influence over the city's government." The court determined the lawmakers "had used unacceptable words or even dubious tones in oaths of office that require they declare loyalty to China," which could mean "that advocates in the city's semiautonomous legislature will no longer have enough votes to block legislation from their pro-Beijing counterparts."

The Wall Street Journal (7/14, Yung, Subscription Publication, 6.99M) reports six legislators have thus far been disqualified by Hong Kong's High Court for using controversial oaths when sworn in last October. Beijing's intervention triggered an outcry from the city's opposition leaders, who accused China of undermining Hong Kong's right to judicial independence and freedom of speech as protected under a UK-Chinese handover agreement until 2047.

UN REPORTS SURGE IN COLOMBIAN COCA LEAF PRODUCTION. The AP (7/14) reports the United Nations released an analysis on Friday that "shows an estimated 146,000 hectares of Colombian land were planted last year with coca leaf." The level of growth is a 52 percent increase over 2015, and could yield 34 percent more cocaine than in 2015. The AP says the estimated level has "not been seen before during two decades of U.S. drug eradication efforts," and that "an end to aerial fumigation in 2014" contributed heavily to the surge.

To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the website.

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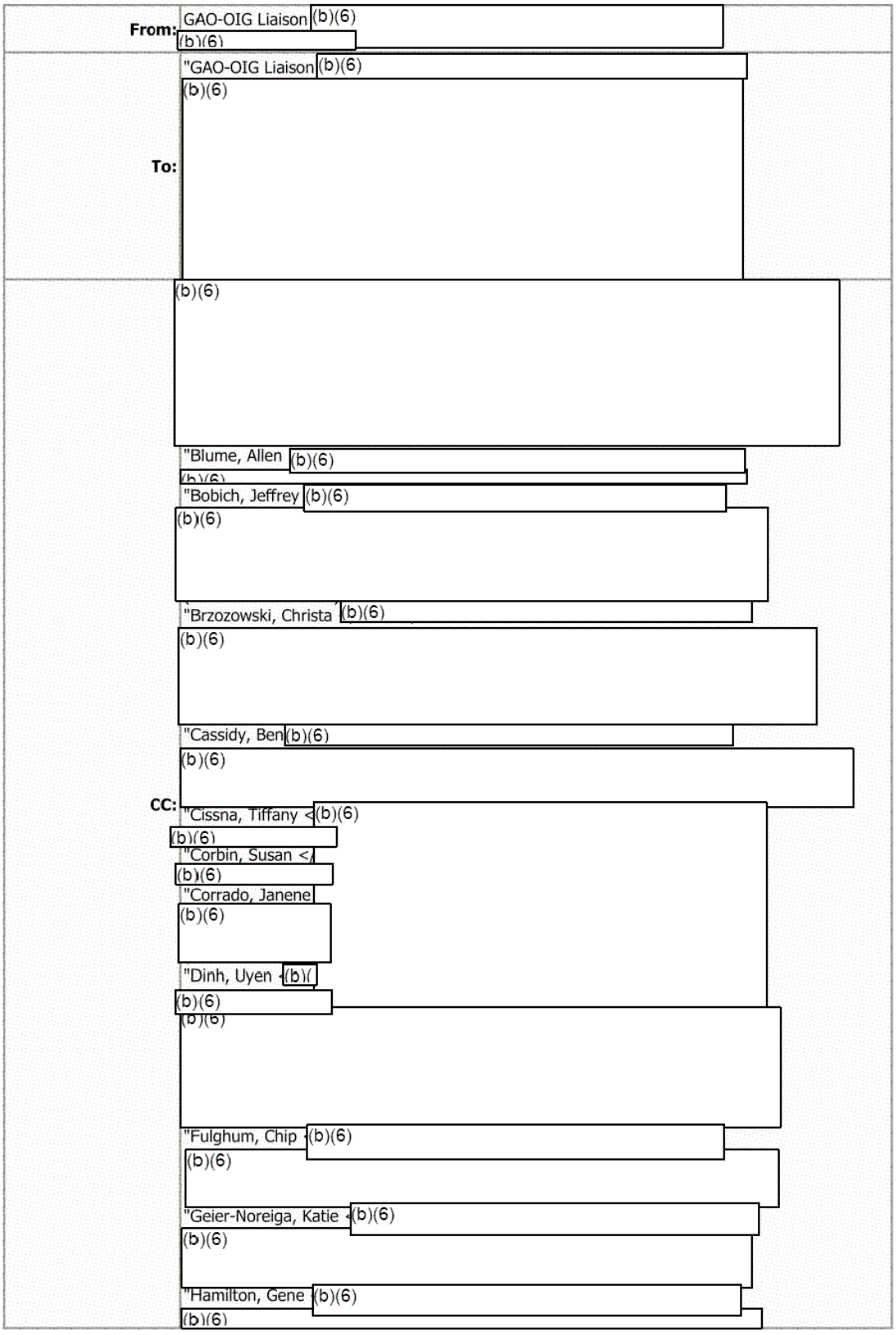
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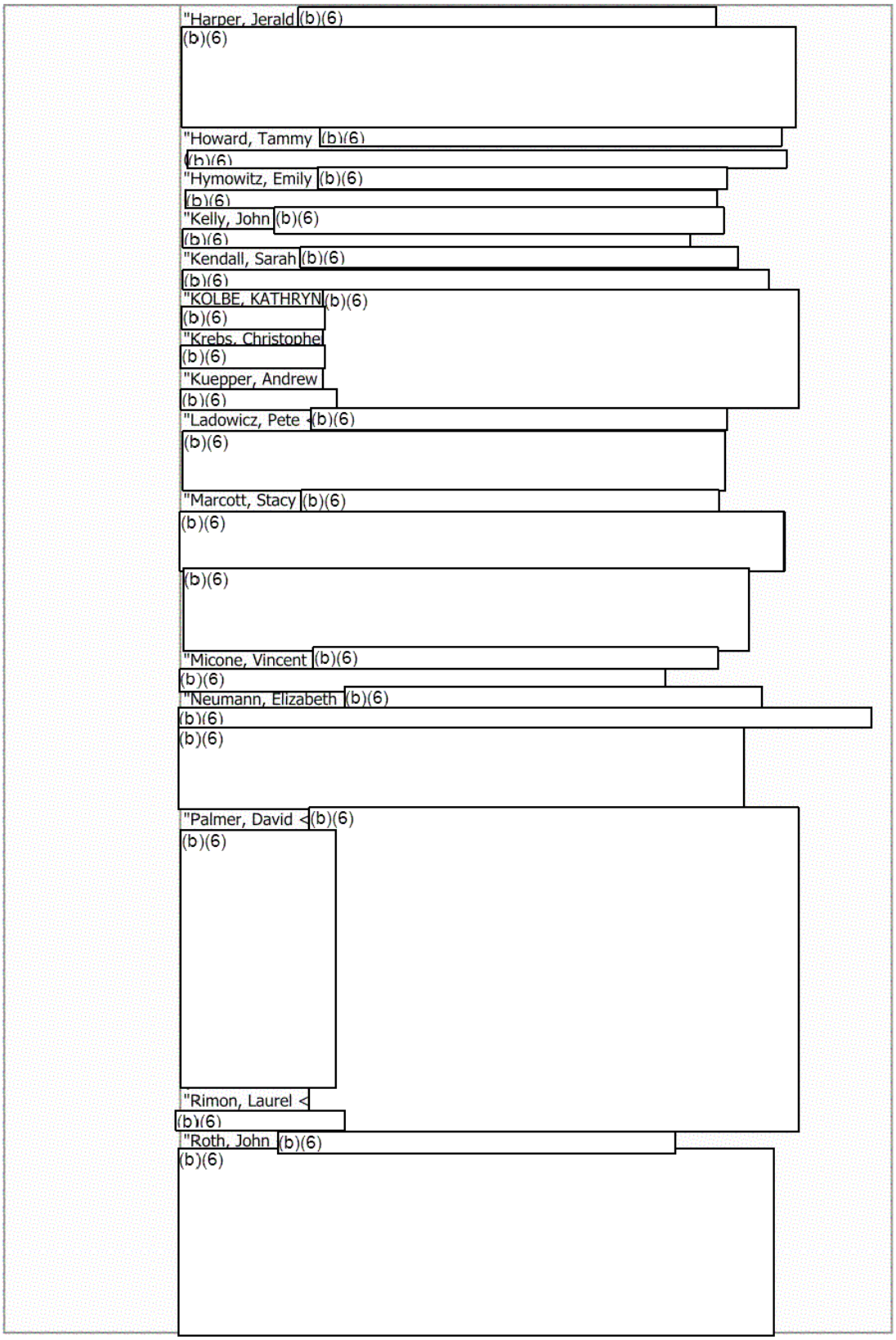
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Subject:	Today's Edition of GAO-OIG In the News (July 21, 2017)
Date:	2017/07/21 15:53:11
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good afternoon,

Attached, find media stories for today with references to the U.S. Government Accountability Office and Inspector General as shown in the DHS Daily News Clips and other selected media sources.

DHS-Related

- • * President Trump insisted that he will build solar panels on the border wall between the US and Mexico; the article notes the GAO estimated that the current fencing along the border would need $6.5 billion for upkeep and repairs over the next 20 years. (p.1) (CBP-related)
- • * GAO reported that TSA doesn't have scientific justification for most of the behavioral clues that officers use to identify potential terrorists. (p.3)

Non-DHS-Related

- • * Proponents of creating a new branch of the military dedicated to space said the "time for study is over" after a House Armed Services Committee briefing on national security in space; the article cites the GAO provided a historical perspective on the overlap on the recommendations to fix the national security space enterprise. (p.4)
- • * The Navy's newest aircraft carrier will officially join the fleet Saturday at a commissioning overseen by President Trump; the article cites GAO reported that the Navy could spend another $780 million preparing the $12.9 billion carrier for battle. (p.5)
- • * The nominee for NSA IG told senators he would scrutinize the spy agency's procedures for vetting contractors. (p.5)

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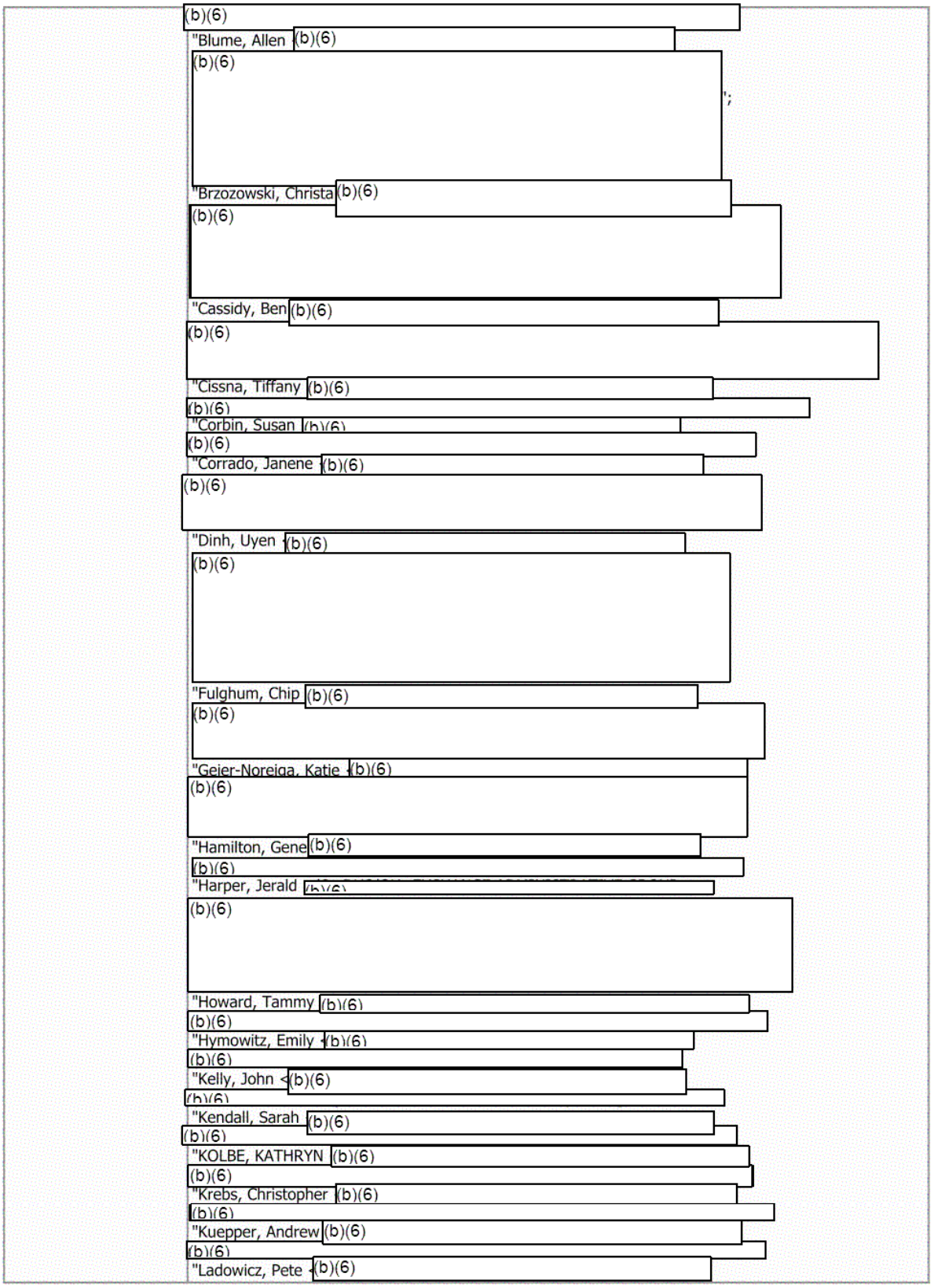
- • * The Trump administration has ended Affordable Care Act contracts that brought assistance into libraries, businesses and urban neighborhoods in 18 cities; the article notes a federal IG' s implications on the issue area. (p.6)
- • * The top Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee wants an investigation into a DoI employee's claim that he was reassigned due to his work on climate change; the article notes Sen. Maria Cantwell said she would officially ask the DoI IG to look into the matter. (p.7)
- • * DoJ has charged more than 400 people, including 56 doctors, with healthcare fraud that cost taxpayers approximately $1.3 billion; the article cites a related GAO report. (p.8)
- • * Surveys show 84 percent of Americans oppose civil forfeiture, a legal tool that allows law enforcement agencies to confiscate property (cash, cars, homes, even businesses) without convicting anyone of a crime; the article notes the DoJ IG found that more than half were not related to any identifiable criminal investigation or prosecution. (p.9)
- • * The New Orleans IG says the city hasn't adequately warned residents that ongoing street repairs and water system improvements could result in temporarily high lead levels in some buildings' tap water. (p.10)
- • * Irakly Kaveladze, the eighth person confirmed to have attended Donald Trump Jr.'s 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer, reportedly worked to set up bank accounts in the U.S. that have been investigated for money laundering; the article notes a GAO report from 2000 detailing the investigation for money laundering.(p.10)
- • * The Trump administration has ended Affordable Care Act contracts that brought assistance into libraries, businesses and urban neighborhoods in 18 cities; the article notes a federal IG' s implications on the issue area. (p.11)

Please note that prior editions of "GAO-OIG in the News" are available on our Intranet website.

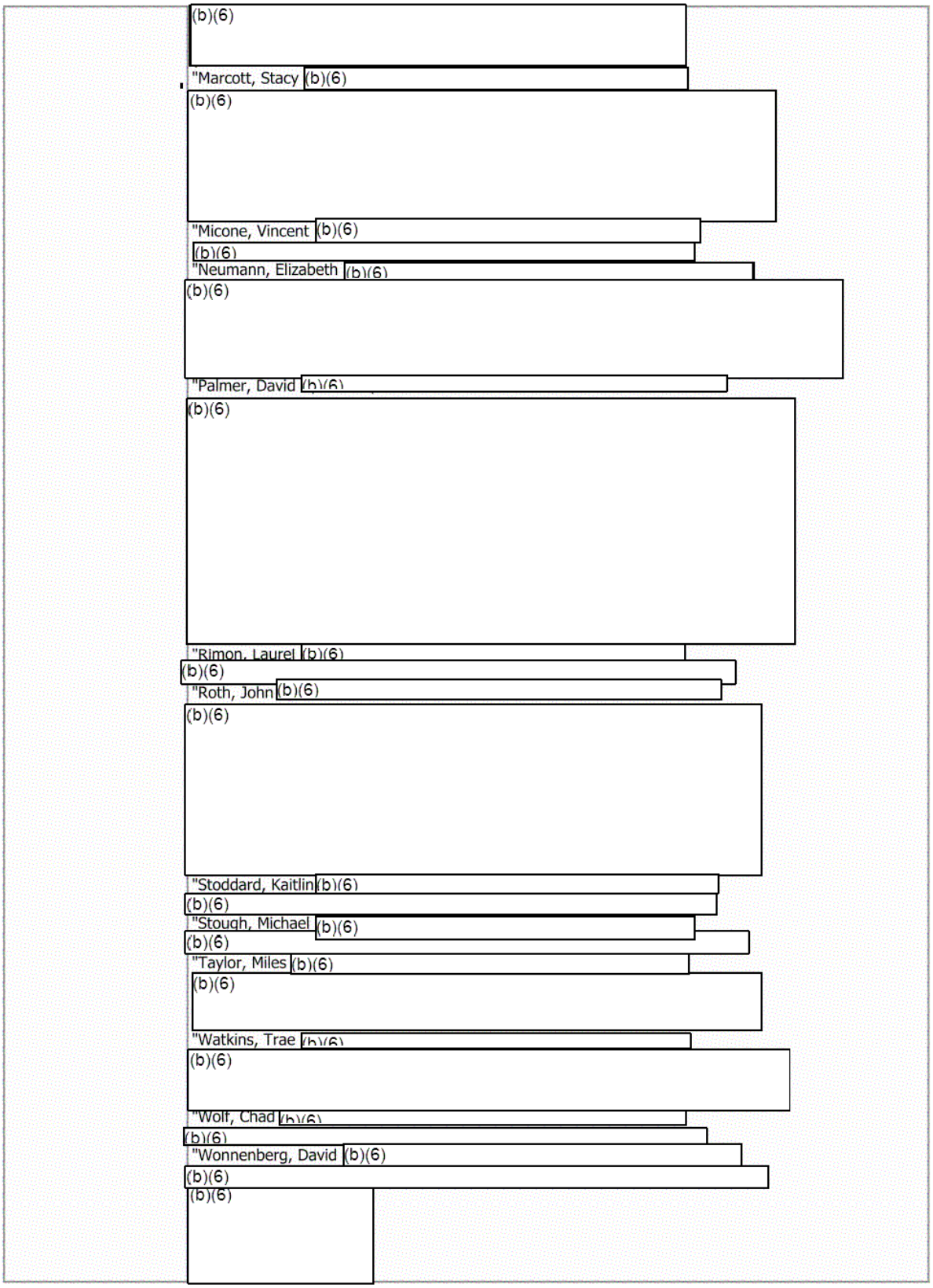
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GAO-OIG IN THE NEWS

These articles are highlighted to keep DHS leadership, our audit liaison community, and others across the Department informed about news being reported mentioning the U.S. Government accountability office (GAO) and/or the various federal Offices of Inspector general (OIG). While this service focuses mainly on DHS, it does include other GAO- and OIG-related information for cross-feed purposes. DHS-related articles appear first, followed by those from other parts of government.

The articles are sourced from: _____; _____; _____; _____; _____ _____; and, from time-to-time, other selected publications. Please send any questions, comments, or suggestions to the Departmental GAO-OIG Liaison mailbox: _____.

DHS-RELATED

Vox, By Ruairí Arrieta-Kenna, July 20, 2017

Last week, President Donald Trump insisted that he really isn't joking about putting solar panels on the border wall he's promised to build between the United States and Mexico.

"There is a chance that we can do a solar wall. We have major companies looking at that. Look, there's no better place for solar than the Mexico border — the southern border," he said. "And there is a very good chance we can do a solar wall, which would actually look good."

When Trump first pitched the idea of a solar wall at a meeting with Republican Congress members at the White House in June, he claimed that the idea was his (it wasn't) and that the energy generated by the panels could cover the cost of the wall.

Now that it seems he really wants solar panels on there, we decided to do the math on this possibility of the wall "paying for itself." That would, theoretically, help him sell the plan to fiscal conservatives, among others. A border wall would be really, really expensive

As Vox's Dara Lind and Tara Golshan explained in May, Trump faces a multitude of obstacles in building more border wall (there are already 654 miles of fence and wall down there). Chief among them is convincing Congress to pay for it. While Trump maintains that he will somehow get Mexico to eventually pay for the wall, American taxpayers will have to foot the bill initially. The US-Mexico border fence stops while passing through farmland near Fort Hancock, Texas. Throughout vast stretches of West Texas, the current fencing starts and stops along the bank of the Rio Grande, which is often nearly drained due to irrigation for crops. Photo taken on October 14, 2016. John Moore/Getty Images

On July 11, Republicans in Congress released a bill that would allocate $1.6 billion to the Department of Homeland Security to begin construction of the physical barrier. But that's just a fraction of the $21.6 billion the DHS

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estimated in February would be needed to build a wall along the 1,250 miles of unfenced border. (Trump told reporters on July 13 that he now intends to build only 700 to 900 miles of "see-through" wall, but that would still cost roughly $12 billion to $15.5 billion, according to the February DHS estimates.) But a solar wall will pay for itself, right? Nope.

The idea to put solar panels on the wall seems to have originated in a Huffington Post article last December, but it gained greater traction after Gleason Partners submitted a prototype design in April to DHS's Customs and Border Protection.

In June, CPB announced plans to build four to eight different wall prototypes this year in San Diego. (It's not yet clear if Gleason's solar border wall will be one of those prototypes.)

But a back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that solar panels wouldn't come close to covering the cost for the 700 to 900 miles of wall Trump wants to build.

To simplify things, I'll give Trump the benefit of the doubt with a best-case scenario.

The average commercial solar panel is about 39 by 77 inches, and utility-scale solar arrays typically hold two rows of panels vertically. In a scenario with the maximum number of panels installed along the top of the wall (with no horizontal space between them), a 900-mile border would at most be able to accommodate 2,924,102 panels across its width.

The typical commercial solar panel has a capacity of up to 350 watts, so these nearly 3 million panels could make up a system of just over 1000 megawatts. But limited daylight hours and adverse weather conditions, such as extreme heat or excessive cloud shading, can cause solar panels to operate at less than maximum capacity. The average output capacity factor of solar panels in the US is around 20 percent.

Nevertheless, solar technology continues to improve, and the southwestern part of the United States is sunnier than average. Optimistically, let's assume solar panels atop a border wall would operate at an annual 30 percent capacity factor. The nearly 3 million panels would then generate upward of 2.7 terawatt-hours of electrical power per year.

Let's also say, for Trump's sake, that Mexico's electric utility would buy all the energy generated and pay for all the transmission infrastructure. The average retail price of electricity in the border states is about 11 cents per kilowatt-hour. Assuming that the energy generated by the border wall is sold at that retail rate (it would more likely be sold on the cheaper wholesale market and in Mexico, but we're giving Trump the best-case scenario here), the annual revenue would be about $300 million per year.

But with standard utility-scale solar installation costs as low as $1 per watt, the nearly 3 million panels would cost at least $1 billion. Even with the generous revenue estimate, it would take four years just to recuperate the installation costs of the panels.

Now, remember that 700 to 900 miles of new wall would cost approximately $12 billion to $15.5 billion to build. And this and the existing fencing would also need to be maintained. In 2009, the Government accountability office estimated that the current fencing along the border would need $6.5 billion for upkeep and repairs over the next 20 years (an annual average of $325 million). A much longer wall would cost even more than that, not to mention the additional operations and maintenance costs of the solar panels, which need to be cleaned, repaired, and replaced regularly.

So when all is said and done, it looks like the solar panels, estimated to bring in at most $300 million a year, would hardly make a dent in the wall's costs. The physical problems with a solar wall

According to KCET's Chris Clarke, who also tried to estimate the incredibly high cost of a solar wall, a version like the one Gleason Partners proposed would also be very technically difficult to build.

For starters, a wall is not an ideal frame for solar panels. Solar panels traditionally lay at a slight angle off the horizontal, such as on roofs or in large solar farms. Making the vertical part of a wall out of solar panels wouldn't make sense, since, after all, they must face the sun to convert its energy.

To account for this, Gleason, the prototype designer, proposed angling two sets of solar panels off the wall — one on the top, the other jutting from the middle to the ground, as pictured below. Gleason Partners

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However, solar panels in the Northern Hemisphere should point south to maximize time facing the sun. But in the case of a border wall, that means the most valuable parts of the wall, the solar arrays, would have to be displayed, unprotected, on the Mexican side. This would leave them open to almost certain vandalism and theft.

To maximize efficiency for capturing sunlight, a border wall could arrange panels from the top to the ground at an approximately 30-degree angle off the horizontal. But as Clarke points out, a structure like that would be easy to climb and more of a border ramp than a border wall, certainly not fulfilling its intended purpose. (It would also be difficult for a wall made of solar panels to be transparent. Donald Trump has said it should be to prevent sacks of drugs from being tossed over and hitting unassuming Americans.) The wall is unpopular anyway

Trump's border wall plan is already really unpopular. And putting solar panels on the border wall shouldn't make fiscal conservatives any more excited about this extremely expensive infrastructure project. And according to recent polling by Echelon Insights, it doesn't. The solar panel idea has also resulted in only slightly less opposition by Democrats, according to the same polling.

The green energy component has done little to mitigate concerns environmentalists have about the wall either. As Brett Hartl of the Center for Biological Diversity affirmed in a statement in June, "An ecological disaster with solar panels on top is still an ecological disaster. With solar panels on top."

USA Today, By Bart Jansen, July 20, 2017

The Transportation Security Administration doesn't have scientific justification for most of the behavioral clues that officers use to identify potential terrorists, a government watchdog reported Thursday.

Despite a lack of scientific validation, TSA told the Government accountability office that some suspicious actions, such as a traveler having wires hanging out of clothing, can't be ignored.

Even so, TSA has blended what used to be thousands of behavior-detection officers into the general workforce in recent years to bolster checkpoint screening while still keeping an eye on suspicious actions.

TSA's behavior detection program has been contentious for years. GAO and the inspector general for the Department of Homeland Security have questioned the lack of scientific justification for singling out suspicious behavior to identify terrorists or criminals.

TSA had 3,131 officers in its behavior-detection program in 2013 when a critical GAO report was released that questioned the program's reliability.

By 2016, TSA reduced the program to $186 million for 2,393 officers at 87 airports. Those officers were trained to spot behavior such as how a traveler swallowed or how open a person's eyes were as one indicator for whether further scrutiny was warranted.

Critics such as Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the top Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee, repeatedly questioned whether behavior detection was reliable or possibly concealed racial harassment. But TSA said officers were targeting behavior rather than race.

GAO's 16-page report Thursday checked 178 sources that TSA submitted to justify behavior detection. Of those, 137 were news stories or opinion pieces that GAO dismissed. Other sources were studies that didn't conduct original research.

The 20 reports with original research couldn't support 28 of the 36 suspicious behaviors that TSA targeted, according to GAO.

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"TSA does not have valid evidence that most of its indicators in its revised list of behavioral indicators can be used to identify individuals who may pose a threat to aviation security," said the GAO report from Nancy Kingsbury and Jennifer Grover.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees TSA, responded that the behavior-detection program was eliminated before this fiscal year, and officers were integrated into the checkpoint workforce.

But TSA cited a 2013 report from Rand National Defense Research Institute that found "there is current value and unrealized potential for using behavioral indicators as part of a system to detect attacks."

For example, wires hanging out of a person's clothing might be signs of a suicide bomber, according to the department and the FBI.

"Behavior detection is a non-invasive technique that increases the potential of an employee to engage passengers and detect potentially dangerous individuals, terrorists and criminals," Jim Crumpacker, the department's liaison to GAO, wrote in reply to the report.

NON-DHS-RELATED

The Hill, By Rebecca Kheel, July 19, 2017

Proponents of creating a new branch of the military dedicated to space said Wednesday the "time for study is over" after a House Armed Services Committee briefing on national security in space.

"The time for study is over: We must now act to effect change based on the repeated recommendations," Reps. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) and Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.), the chairman and ranking member of the panel's strategic forces subcommittee, said in a statement.

"The consensus of the prior studies and reviews is that we must fix these problems. We believe the Space Corps is that fix. The status quo and further delay are indefensible."

In their committee roles, the pair have shepherded the plan to create a Space Corps that passed the House last week as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The Space Corps would be focused on addressing threats from countries such as Russia and China to U.S. assets in space, such as satellites.

The proposal has elicited huge opposition from the Pentagon, including from Defense Secretary James Mattis, Joint Chiefs Vice Chairman Gen. Paul Selva, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.

Opponents argue that not enough study has been done on the issue and that not enough time has been given to allow the Pentagon's current efforts to reform its approach to space to work.

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But proponents, such as Rogers and Cooper, argue the bureaucracy of the Pentagon has historically been resistant to change that was ultimately for the better, such as the creation of the Air Force.

Wednesday's briefing, which was open to the full Armed Services Committee, covered information from the Government accountability office (GAO) about "historical perspectives of leadership and acquisition challenges in national security space," according to the committee release.

It follows a classified briefing from the intelligence community Tuesday, as well as several subcommittee sessions on the issue.

"We believe it is imperative that members understand the challenges we are facing in space from our adversaries and from our own self-imposed impediments like the current organization of space within DOD and its space capability acquisition system," Rogers and Cooper said. "The GAO provided a historical perspective on the remarkable overlap on the recommendations to fix the national security space enterprise."

According to the release, reports, studies and commissions dating back to 1982 have identified fragmented leadership and lack of accountability as major causes of systemic failures in space acquisition. Those failings include billions of dollars of cost overruns because the "acquisition system is so complicated that no one is in charge," the release says.

Washington Post, By Associated Press, July 20, 2017

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy's newest aircraft carrier will officially join the fleet Saturday at a commissioning overseen by President Donald Trump. But four years will likely pass before the ship's first deployment.

The USS Gerald R. Ford still must go through various tests and trials of its cutting-edge technology, including new systems to launch and land fighter jets. A Government accountability office report released this month said the Navy could spend another $780 million preparing the $12.9 billion carrier for battle.

Named after the country's 38th president, the ship is the first of the new Ford class of aircraft carrier. The vessel can carry more planes and operate with several hundred fewer sailors. Flying missions are expected to increase by a third.

The commissioning will be held at Naval Station Norfolk.

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Politico, By Tim Starks, July 20, 2017

Senior Trump adviser Jared Kushner will appear before the Senate Intelligence Committee next week as part of its Russia investigation. … Donald Trump Jr. and former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort will be called to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee as part of its Russia probe. … Robert Storch, Trump's nominee for NSA inspector general, told senators he would scrutinize the spy agency's procedures for vetting contractors. … The White House is worried Moscow might retaliate after the General Services Administration made it harder for federal agencies to buy products from Russian cybersecurity company Kaspersky Lab.

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Washington Post, By Carla K. Johnson, July 20, 2017

CHICAGO — President Donald Trump's administration has ended Affordable Care Act contracts that brought assistance into libraries, businesses and urban neighborhoods in 18 cities, meaning shoppers on the insurance exchanges will have fewer places to turn for help signing up for coverage.

Community groups say the move, announced to them by contractors last week, will make it even more difficult to enroll the uninsured and help people already covered re-enroll or shop for a new policy. That's already a concern because of consumer confusion stemming from the political wrangling in Washington and a shorter enrollment period. People will have 45 days to shop for 2018 coverage, starting Nov. 1 and ending Dec. 15. In previous years, they had twice that much time.

Some see it as another attempt to undermine the health law's marketplaces by a president who has suggested he should let "Obamacare" fail. The administration, earlier this year, pulled paid advertising for the sign-up website HealthCare.gov, prompting an inquiry by a federal inspector general into that decision and whether it hurt sign-ups.

Now insurers and advocates are concerned that the administration could further destabilize the marketplaces where people shop for coverage by not promoting them or not enforcing the mandate compelling people to get coverage. The administration has already threatened to withhold payments to insurers to help people afford care, which would prompt insurers to sharply increase prices.

"There's a clear pattern of the administration trying to undermine and sabotage the Affordable Care Act," said Elizabeth Hagan, associate director of coverage initiatives for the liberal advocacy group Families USA. "It's not letting the law fail, it's making the law fail."

Two companies — McLean, Virginia-based Cognosante LLC and Falls Church, Virginia-based CSRA Inc. — will no longer help with the sign-ups following a decision by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services officials not to renew a final option year of the vendors' contracts. The contracts, awarded in 2013, were never meant to be long term, said CMS spokeswoman Jane Norris in an email.

"These contracts were intended to help CMS provide temporary, in-person enrollment support during the early years" of the exchanges, Norris said. Other federally funded help with enrollment will continue, she said, including a year-round call center and grant-funded navigator programs. The existing program is "robust" and "we have the on-the-ground resources necessary" in key cities, Norris said.

But community advocates expected the vendors' help for at least another year. "It has our heads spinning about how to meet the needs in communities," said Inna Rubin of United Way of Metro Chicago, who helps run an Illinois health access coalition.

CSRA's current $12.8 million contract expires Aug. 29. Cognosante's $9.6 million contract expires the same date.

Together, they assisted 14,500 enrollments, far less than 1 percent of the 9.2 million people who signed up through HealthCare.gov, the insurance marketplace serving most states. But some advocates said the groups focused on the healthy, young adults needed to keep the insurance markets stable and prices down.

During the most recent open enrollment period, they operated in the Texas cities of Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, McAllen and El Paso; the Florida cities of Miami, Tampa and Orlando; Atlanta; northern New Jersey; Phoenix; Philadelphia; Indianapolis; New Orleans; Charlotte, North Carolina; Cleveland and Chicago.

The insurance exchanges, accessed by customers through the federal HealthCare.gov or state-run sites, are a way for people to compare and shop for insurance coverage. The health law included grant money for community organizations to train people to help consumers apply for coverage, answer questions and explain differences between the insurance policies offered.

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In Illinois, CSRA hired about a dozen enrollment workers to supplement a small enrollment workforce already in the state, Rubin said. The company operated a storefront enrollment center in a Chicago neighborhood from November through April.

"It was a large room in a retail strip mall near public transit with stations set up where people could come in and sit down" with an enrollment worker, Rubin said.

CSRA spokesman Tom Doheny in an email said the company "is proud of the work we have accomplished under this contract." He referred other questions to federal officials.

Cognosante worked on enrollment in nine cities in seven states, according to a June 6 post on the company's website. The work included helping "more than 15,000 Texas consumers" and staffing locations "such as public libraries and local business offices." A Cognosante spokeswoman referred questions to federal officials.

The health care debate in Congress has many consumers questioning whether "Obamacare" still exists, community advocates said.

"What is the goal of the Trump administration here? Is it to help people? Or to undermine the Affordable Care Act?" said Rob Restuccia, executive director of Boston-based Community Catalyst, a group trying to preserve the health care law.

The Hill, By Timothy Cama, July 20, 2017

The top Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee wants an investigation into an Interior Department employee's claim that he was reassigned due to his work on climate change.

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) said at a Thursday hearing that she would officially ask Interior's inspector general to look into the matter.

Her request came a day after Joel Clement, the former director of Interior's Office of Policy Analysis, wrote a Washington Post op-ed saying he was improperly reassigned to an accounting position because of his work on helping Alaskan communities cope with climate change.

"We need to make sure that those individuals who have the experience, who are involved in the science, are going to continue to fulfill those responsibilities," Cantwell said at an unrelated hearing about nominees to Interior and the Department of Energy.

"Sure, there are always reorganizations at an agency," she said, adding that employees with the necessary experiences should stay in the jobs their suited for.

Clement also filed a complaint against political appointees, saying his reassignment was the result of illegal political interference.

Federal agencies are allowed to reassign employees in Senior Executive Service positions like Clement, with some limitations.

"Personnel moves amongst the Senior Executive Service are being conducted to better serve the taxpayer and the department's operations through matching Senior Executive skill sets with mission and operational requirements," Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said Wednesday.

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The Hill, By John DeMaggio, opinion contributor, July 20, 2017

Most of us know of U.S. citizens who are truly in need of public assistance. They range from the orphans to the handicapped to the elderly. However, do recent events show that the unscrupulous with avaricious intentions have no trouble swindling the system to gain financial advantages?

Last week, The Hill reported:

"The Department of Justice (DOJ) has charged more than 400 people, including 56 doctors, with healthcare fraud that cost taxpayers approximately $1.3 billion, Attorney General announced on Thursday."

A DOJ press release specified 413 people were charged. One of the individual frauds totaled $56 million and another $164 million. Additionally, "…295 healthcare providers are being suspended or banned from federal health programs as a result of the crackdown."

This comes after multiple reports over the last week of investigators uncovering massive fraud in the federal and state government's welfare programs.

On July 12, NJ.com reported in a piece titled "12 more Lakewood residents charged in massive welfare fraud sweep" that "the recent charges bring the total amount of illegally obtained benefits to well over $2 million. Twenty-six Lakewood residents have been charged since June 26 in the joint federal, state and county crackdown." The 12 consisted of six couples charged with stealing between $62,746 and $74,960 over a three to five year period.

One only has to look at their own yearly income tax payment to put these frauds in prospective and ask how much of my tax payments are going to finance these frauds?

The day before, on July 11, the Dallas Morning News reported "Alexis C. Norman, 46, is charged with running an operation involving more than $810,000 in false Medicaid claims." This is all the more sensational since Norman was in federal prison while she perpetrated these frauds.

A week earlier, on July 5, The Hudson Valley (New York) News reported that "Nearly two dozen people from Orange and Dutchess counties have been accused in a welfare fraud sweep … 23 people stole a combined $220,000 in welfare benefits." District Attorney Dave Hoovler said this seventh sweep in Orange County in recent years "has busted nearly 200 people for welfare fraud since 2014, thanks to a county special investigations unit that routinely checks individual cases for red flags. The work has so far recovered more than $500,000."

These last few are just three jurisdictions, Dallas, Texas; Lakewood, N.J.; and Orange County, N.Y.! According to the U.S. Geological Service there are 3141 counties in the 50 states and the District of Columbia not counting the U.S. territories. Could one conclude similar investigations identifying millions of dollars in frauds might result from comparable investigations in each county?

All of these reports indicate that the perpetrators were able to accomplish the frauds by simply falsifying their original applications for assistance.

These reports come on the heels of the Government accountability office (GAO) May 2017 report on the Federal Communication Commission's Lifeline program, more commonly referred to as the "Obamaphones," issued last month entitled, "Additional Action Needed to Address Significant Risks in FCC's Lifeline Program."

The GAO found:

"Lifeline's structure relies on over 2,000 Eligible Telecommunication Carriers that are Lifeline providers to implement key program functions, such as verifying subscriber eligibility. This complex internal control environment is susceptible to risk of fraud, waste, and abuse as companies may have financial incentives to enroll as many customers as possible."

Could we call this an example of the proverbial fox guarding the hen house?

It continues, "subsequent to our 2010 report, which found that Lifeline had limited abilities to detect and prevent ineligible and duplicate subscribers from enrolling in the program… (GAO) found a total of 5,510 potential internal duplicates…" and "…identified 6,378 individuals reported as deceased who are receiving Lifeline benefits…The date

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of death for each of these individuals preceded the Lifeline enrollment or recertification date by at least 1 year." Further details revealed that audits of the telecommunications providers, who determine eligibility, averaged less than 0.17 percent between 2007 and 2013. That is 99.8 percent without oversight!

These reports all come to us from diverse sources within weeks. When taken collectively does this indicate that there is a serious lack of oversight in these programs across the nation with little to no scrutiny of original applications?

It is very doubtful if any investigations will result in any more than a fraction of the illegal payments returned to the government. Coupling this with the cost of the investigations, prosecutions, appeals and incarnation to our federal, state and local governments, wouldn't be more cost effective to have an effective approval process at the front end, when these fraudulent applications are submitted? So why have our elected officials chosen not to put such systems in place when initiating these programs?

While you sit down to write your checks to pay your taxes, should you be wondering how many are receiving checks funded with your earnings due to their falsifying applications with negligible government oversight?

Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner observed in "Reckless Endangerment" how lobbyists shifted "… the power of oversight to congressional subcommittees, run by members who could be easily swayed by the company's lobbying efforts and campaign contributions."

As our nation argues the future of healthcare, are we ensuring that these proposed bills in Congress include instituting adequate approval processes and oversight to protect our tax funds?

It is also the start of the U.S. government budget cycle. As the government begins the budget process, is our Congress ensuring that there are adequate safeguards in the social programs to prevent these frauds before the funds are distributed and lost forever?

John M. DeMaggio is a retired special agent in charge and served as a captain in the U.S. Navy. The above is the opinion of the author and is not meant to reflect the opinion of the U.S. Navy or the U.S. government.

Washington Post, By Robert Johnson and Nick Sibilla, July 20, 2017

Surveys show 84 percent of Americans oppose it. Both the Republican and Democratic party platforms condemn it. More than 230 newspaper editorials have denounced it. And in the last three years alone, 24 states have taken steps to restrict it. So why is Attorney General Jeff Sessions looking to increase it?

We're talking about civil forfeiture, a legal tool that allows law enforcement agencies to confiscate property — cash, cars, homes, even businesses — without convicting anyone of a crime. Mere suspicion is sufficient to justify a seizure. Then, property owners must prove their own innocence to get their property back.

With few safeguards for the innocent, civil forfeiture is one of the greatest assaults today on private property rights and a fair, impartial justice system – both foundations of a healthy democracy.

Public outrage has grown as stories of abuse have proliferated. Just last year, for instance, The Post reported how police in Muskogee County, Okla., seized more than $50,000 from the manager of a Burmese Christian rock band. That included money intended for an orphanage in Thailand, still sealed in donation envelopes.

Or consider Chris and Markela Sourovelis. The Philadelphia district attorney sought to forfeit their family home because their son was caught selling $40 worth of drugs.

Outrage has generated reform. State legislatures across the country have passed measures to shore up property rights, and a full 14 states now require a criminal conviction to forfeit property. Blue states and red states alike — in every region of the country — have enacted reforms.

Now those reforms are under attack. On Wednesday, Sessions announced a new policy that will make it easier for state and local law enforcement to sidestep state-level protections for property owners.

The new Justice Department policy expands a federal forfeiture program called "equitable sharing." Equitable sharing allows state police to seize property and send it to federal prosecutors for forfeiture under federal law, even

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if it could not be forfeited under state law. State police then get to keep up to 80 percent of the proceeds, creating a financial incentive to take property. In other words, equitable sharing encourages police and prosecutors to become bounty hunters, even if that would circumvent state law.

The decision to expand equitable sharing is especially egregious because equitable sharing has long undermined state efforts to protect citizens from abuse. In a searing exposé of equitable sharing in 2014, The Post identified nearly 62,000 cash seizures worth more than $2.5 billion, all made "without search warrants or indictments." Their investigation also found more than 500 task forces and departments that "seized the equivalent of 20 percent or more of their annual budgets."

Largely in response to such criticisms, then-Attorney General Eric Holder took steps in January 2015 to rein in equitable sharing. Those reforms were themselves imperfect, but they did make a difference. The Drug Enforcement Agency — which pursues the most forfeiture cases through the Justice Department — saw cash seizures drop by half. Now, Wednesday's policy reverses Holder's reforms.

Announcing the change, Sessions promised "safeguards" to protect innocent property owners. But the safeguards included in the policy amount to little more than a promise by law enforcement to be more careful.

The problem, of course, is that these "safeguards" will be implemented by the same law enforcement agencies that stand to benefit financially from forfeitures. Indeed, they will be implemented by the same agencies that have engaged in abuse in the past.

Promises of self-restraint are well and good, but in the end the only real safeguard would be judicial oversight. Before police and prosecutors can take property, they should have to convict someone of a crime.

Of course, *that* safeguard is nowhere to be found in the new Justice Department policy. To the contrary, the directive says the government can continue to forfeit "personal residences" even "where title or ownership lies with persons not implicated in illegal conduct."

To justify the change, the attorney general repeatedly stressed the importance of going after "criminals." But, by definition, *civil* forfeiture targets people who have not been convicted of anything.

Everybody agrees that criminals should not be allowed to keep their ill-gotten gains. That aim can be accomplished using *criminal* forfeiture, under which property is forfeited only following a conviction.

As a law enforcement tool, civil forfeiture is worse than ineffective — it actually encourages police to focus on raising money at the expense of fighting crime. A report from the Justice Department's own inspector general looked at a sample of 100 seizures by the DEA and found that more than half were not related to any identifiable criminal investigation or prosecution. In other words, police took the cash and, oftentimes, let the purported "criminals" walk free.

With the attorney general's announcement, the onus now shifts to Congress to act. The Fair Act, introduced by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), would eliminate equitable sharing once and for all. Another proposal, the Due Process Act, does not go so far but would still put in place meaningful procedural safeguards.

Civil forfeiture has no place in a free country. State legislatures are taking steps to uphold property rights. The question is, will the federal government work with them or against them?

Washington Post, By Kevin McGill, July 20, 2017

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans inspector general says the city hasn't adequately warned residents that ongoing street repairs and water system improvements could result in temporarily high lead levels in some buildings' tap water.

Inspector general Ed Quatrevaux's (KWAH'-treh-voh's) latest report says some old city water lines — and lines on private properties — are made of lead, which can affect the brain and nervous system when ingested. Chemicals

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added to the water form a protective coating in those pipes. But Quatrevaux cites experts who say disturbance of the aging lines can jar some of the coating loose and allow lead to contaminate the water.

Citing $2.4 billion in planned New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board infrastructure projects as well as numerous past water system and street projects Quatrevaux raises the possibility that individual homes or businesses might see spikes in lead levels in drinking water.

"New Orleans residents living where infrastructure construction projects occur may be — or may have been — unknowingly exposed to elevated levels of lead in drinking water," the report said.

In a statement emailed Thursday, the city Sewerage and Water Board stressed its compliance with all state and federal laws and said the city's water is safe. It outlined its existing policies for educating customers by way of social media, direct mail and email about risks of lead exposure.

The board's website offers information on water quality and tips to reduce lead in drinking water, posted in response to customer queries after the 2015 water crisis in Flint, Michigan. There, lead was discovered in the drinking water after the city began tapping Flint River water as a source. The river water was not properly treated, leading to lead leaching from old pipes and fixtures.

"The City and S&WB have taken proactive steps to inform residents of the potential for increased exposure to lead in water caused by partial replacement or disturbance of LSLs (lead service lines), as well as the steps the public should take to reduce the impacts of that temporary elevated lead exposure," the board's statement said.

Quatrevaux's report says the city's past efforts lacked a sense of urgency. He cited the board's 2015 report touring upcoming infrastructure improvements that had scant mention of the possibility that the work could cause a spike in lead levels.

Meanwhile, the city says it's taking steps to reduce the long term danger of lead pipes.

Because lead lines were an industry standard until the dangers of lead became known in the 1970s, the city has no special inventory of where its lead supply lines exist. The board said it began taking an inventory of its approximately 140,000 lines last year, at the request of Mayor Mitch Landrieu, to begin determining which lines are made of lead. That will help the city prepare for future replacements.

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The Hill, By Josh Delk, July 19, 2017

Irakly Kaveladze, the eighth person confirmed to have attended Donald Trump Jr.'s 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer, reportedly worked to set up bank accounts in the U.S. that have been investigated for money laundering, according to a new CNN report.

CNN found that a Government accountability office (GAO) report from 2000 details the investigation for money laundering.

According to the report, Kaveladze took part in opening 236 accounts at two banks that the GAO reported had over $1.4 billion deposited into them between 1991 and 2000, which came under congressional investigation for possible money laundering.

Former Democratic Sen. Carl Levin (Mich.) said on Facebook Tuesday night that Kaveladze created both the companies and bank accounts that were investigated, and that Kaveladze established "some 2,000" companies on "behalf of the people in Russia."

Levin said "Kaveladze claimed he did all this without knowing for whom he was doing it."

"There was never any allegation of him engaged in any criminal activity," Kaveladze's lawyer, Scott Balber, said on CNN's "Outfront" with Erin Burnett Tuesday night. "He has never been implicated in any wrongdoing whatsoever."

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Kaveladze, the vice president of a real estate group, was at the June 9, 2016, meeting in which Trump Jr. met with a Russian attorney in an effort to gather damaging information on then-Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

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DEPUTY SECRETARY'S BRIEFING BOOK

Friday, July 7, 2017



1 **CWMD Update**

2 **Press Meet and Greet: Geneva Sands**

3

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CWMD OFFICE DISCUSSION
July 7, 2017

Objective:

- The purpose of the discussion is to present different options for the consolidation of OHA and the DNDO management to the Deputy Secretary.

Background:

- After significant coordination across Components, especially between DNDO, OHA, and S&T, the Secretary approved the proposal with the following modification: research and development (R&D) for chemical and biological issues will remain in S&T for the time being, but the Deputy Secretary will work with S&T and the new CWMD Office to develop a plan for the new office to exert greater control over such R&D efforts and to ensure that research funding is allocated consistent with CWMD mission and priorities.

Discussion Points:

- Options for consolidating OHA and DNDO management:

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Participants:

Elaine Duke, Deputy Secretary
Chad Wolf, Deputy Chief of Staff, DSEC
Elizabeth Neumann, Deputy Chief of Staff, SEC
Miles Taylor, Counselor to the Secretary
Jeff Rezmovic, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary
Arex Avanni, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary
Jim McDonnell, Director, DNDO
Larry Fluty, Acting Assistant Secretary, OHA
Chip Fulghum, Acting Under Secretary, MGMT
Susan Corbin, Chief of Staff, OLA

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Neal Swartz, Associate General Counsel, OGC
Andre Hentz, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for, S&T

Attachment:
A. OGC presentation on the CWMD Reorganization Options (*Dated July 7, 2017*)

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo:
Laura Wilson, Actions Branch Chief, DNDO, (b)(6)
Reviewed and approved by: Jim McDonnell, Director, DNDO, (b)(6)

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DHS-17-0305-A-000499

Page 0499

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of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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DHS-17-0305-A-000500

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DHS-17-0305-A-000501

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of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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DHS-17-0305-A-000510

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GENEVA SANDS – ABC NEWS
July 7, 2017

Overview:

- You will participate in a meet and greet with Geneva Sands for ABC News.
  - This meeting is OFF THE RECORD, however is a good opportunity to begin getting familiar with a DHS beat reporter.
- The objective of this meeting is the first step in beginning a working relationship with DHS beat reporters.
  - While this meeting does not have a specific or tangible objective, the meeting is an opportunity to build a relationship that will inform and contextualize future media engagements and opportunities.

Background:

- You may discuss your role as Deputy Secretary and "COO," responsible for the Department's operational success.
- You may discuss your origins as an entry-level federal employee to Under Secretary for Management and your return to the Department. This is a good opportunity to address personal anecdotes on leadership, be it your own or leaders who have inspired you.
- You may discuss the narrative concerning the Department's morale and how the Department overcomes challenges for success. This is a good opportunity to include anecdotes from the nationwide listening tour.
- While the interview is off the record and intended to focus on you and your leadership, you may be asked about current issues and news of the day, such as the travel executive order and the implementation of enhanced security measures. (**See Tab A**)
- Geneva Sands covers Department of Justice and homeland security issues for ABC News in Washington, D.C.

Participants:
Deputy Secretary Duke
Chad Wolf, Deputy Chief of Staff
Justine Whelan, Assistant Press Secretary, OPA
Geneva Sands, ABC News

Attachments:
A. Talking Points on Current Issues
B. Biography

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Dave Lapan, Deputy Assistant Secretary, OPA (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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GENEVA SANDS – ABC NEWS
Talking Points/If Asked

AVIATION SECURITY – LIFTING PEDS RESTRICTIONS

Talking Points

- The United States and the global aviation community face an adaptive and agile enemy. Terrorist groups continue to target passenger aircraft, and we have seen a web of threats to commercial aviation as terrorist pursue new attack methods.
- As a first step, DHS announced new enhanced security requirements for all commercial flights to the United States. These measures, both seen and unseen, include enhanced screening of passengers and electronic devices as well as heightened security standards for aircraft and airports.
  - The United States is approaching these enhancements in phases. Some, like the measures being implemented by these airlines were required immediately, while others will be implemented over time in coordination with our international partners.
  - As we look to stay ahead of the evolving threats, we'll be working with global aviation stakeholders to expand security measures even further through the use of canines, establishing additional preclearance locations, and focusing on next generation technology.
- Over the course of the next several weeks and months, DHS/TSA will work with aviation stakeholders to ensure these enhanced security measures are fully implemented. As Secretary Kelly described, those who fail to adopt these requirements within certain timeframes may be subject to additional security restrictions being imposed, including a ban on large personal electronic devices on the aircraft or even suspension of flights to the United States.
- Here at home, the U.S. government is constantly working to strengthen and expand our security screening procedures in response to the dangers we face.
  - DHS is currently piloting next generation technology at airports– to include advanced use of biometrics. We are increasing canine screening and closely examining large numbers of personal electronic devices. In addition, we are testing new protocols to better screen cluttered carry-on baggage.
- The urgency of the threat requires all of us to raise the baseline on global aviation security and implement measures that exceed current standards.
- We commend Etihad for working swiftly to implement these additional measures. Their efforts are a model for both foreign and domestic airlines looking to adopt the new measures and are indicative that an airline committed to passenger safety can quickly raise the security bar.

IF ASKED: What measures were enacted in order for this airline/location to have the ban lifted?

- We will not discuss what is in the security directive but as you'll remember from Secretary Kelly's announcement last week, the enhanced security measures, both seen and unseen, include enhanced screening of passengers and electronic devices.

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- We are approaching the entirety of enhancements in phases. Some, like the measures being implemented by this airline were required within a shorter timeframe, while others will be implemented over time in coordination with our international partners.

IF ASKED: What was the process for lifting the ban?

- The airline initiates the process by alerting TSA that it is ready to comply with the measures. The airlines and the host government then must agree on access for TSA's inspectors to observe compliance. Once the visit is scheduled and implementation is discussed, TSA will grant a lift on the ban on personal electronic devices.
- This approval will be verified with visual confirmation by TSA officials ensuring the measures have been implemented correctly and to the full extent required. Following the initial visit, TSA officials will resume their regularly scheduled visits to observe operations.

IF ASKED: If these security measures are so extensive, how did Abu Dhabi implement them so quickly?

- DHS/TSA have been working very closely with all of the airlines on the potential for these enhanced security measures. Secretary Kelly, Deputy Secretary Duke, Acting Administrator Gowadia and staff at DHS and TSA have discussed raising the baseline on global aviation security at length with airlines, foreign countries and aviation stakeholders over the last few months. Therefore, many airlines were prepared to address the threat immediately and in turn, adhere to the security measures outlined by Secretary Kelly last week.

Background

- Etihad Airways and Abu Dhabi International Airport have implemented and completed the initial benchmark which is why the PEDs restrictions have been lifted contingent on compliance.
- In order to confirm this benchmark of enhanced security measures have been implemented, TSA's inspectors will be required to observe compliance at the location.
- The enhanced security measures are being implemented in a phased approach and DHS/TSA will continue to work with aviation stakeholders to ensure the measures are fully implemented.
- This is the first step. As threats continue to evolve, we, and our partners around the world, will continue to respond by working together to improve intelligence sharing and standardize best practices, while pursuing the technological advancements that will make flying more secure for everyone.
- While the PED restrictions addressed a single threat stream, raising the bar globally will allow TSA to better address varied and evolving threat streams.

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AVIATION SECURITY – ENHANCEMENTS

Talking Points

- The United States and the global aviation community face an adaptive and agile enemy. Terrorist groups continue to target passenger aircraft, and we have seen a "spider web" of threats to commercial aviation as terrorist pursue new attack methods.
- Now is time to raise the baseline for global aviation security.
- As a first step, DHS announced new enhanced security requirements for all commercial flights to the United States. These measures, both seen and unseen, include enhanced screening of passengers and electronic devices as well as heightened security standards for aircraft and airports.
  - The United States is approaching these enhancements in phases. Some will be required immediately, while others will be implemented over time in coordination with our international partners.
  - As we look to stay ahead of the evolving threats, we'll be working with global aviation stakeholders to expand security measures even further through the use of canines, establishing additional preclearance locations, and focusing on next generation technology.
- But this is just the beginning. As threats continue to evolve, we, and our partners around the world, will continue to respond by working together to improve intelligence sharing and standardize best practices, while also pursuing out the technological advancements that will make flying more secure for everyone.
- Here at home, the U.S. government is constantly working to strengthen and expand our security screening procedures in response to the dangers we face.
  - DHS is currently piloting next generation technology at airports– to include advanced use of biometrics. We are increasing canine screening and closely examining large numbers of personal electronic devices. In addition, we are testing new protocols to better screen cluttered carry-on baggage.
- Over the course of the next several weeks and months, DHS/TSA will work with aviation stakeholders to ensure these enhanced security measures are fully implemented. As Secretary Kelly described, those who fail to adopt these requirements within certain timeframes may be subject to additional security restrictions being imposed, including a ban on large personal electronic devices on the aircraft or even suspension of flights to the United States.
- The urgency of the threat requires all of us to raise the baseline on global aviation security and implement measures that exceed current standards.

IF ASKED: What are the security measures announced by Secretary Kelly and what is the timeline?

- Based on the current threat, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly has determined it is necessary to require enhanced security for all commercial flights to the United States. These measures both seen and unseen, include but are not limited to:
  - Enhancing overall passenger screening;
  - Conducting heightened screening of personal electronic devices;
  - Increasing security protocols around aircraft and in passenger areas; and

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- Deploying advanced technology, expanding canine screening, and establishing additional preclearance locations DHS will be approaching these enhancements in phases, some will be required immediately, while others will be implemented over time, in coordination with our international partners.

IF ASKED: How will these security requirements be implemented?

- The required enhanced security measures will be implemented through a Security Directive (SD)/Emergency Amendment (EA) process, which requires carriers flying to the United States to implement these measures.

IF ASKED: What are the specific requirements in the security directive?

- DHS/TSA does not discuss specific details related to security directives/emergency amendments.

Background

- The enhanced security measures, both seen and unseen, will improve screening of passengers and electronic devices and heighten security standards for aircraft and airports.
- These enhancements are being approached in phases – some will be required immediately, while others will be implemented over time in coordination with our international partners.
- These enhanced security measures include but are not limited to:
  - Enhancing overall passenger screening;
  - Conducting heightened screening of personal electronic devices;
  - Increasing security protocols around aircraft and in passenger areas; and
  - Deploying advanced technology, expanding canine screening, and establishing additional preclearance locations.
- Over the course of the next several weeks and months, DHS/TSA will work with aviation stakeholders to ensure these enhanced security measures are fully implemented. Some measures – like preclearance - may take years to fully adopt.
- Those who fail to adopt the requirements within certain timeframes may be subject to additional security restrictions being imposed, including a ban on large personal electronic devices on the aircraft or even suspension of flights to the United States.

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CYBER –RANSOMWARE

Talking Points

DHS' Role in Cyber Incidents

- During a cyber incident such as this, we share real-time information about the threat and mitigation strategies. We have a cadre of cybersecurity professionals at the ready that can provide expertise and support to critical infrastructure entities.
- DHS also leads the federal government's efforts to protect civilian executive branch agency systems and networks. We work with each agency's Chief Information Officer to ensure the security of their networks.

Update on Petya

- We are actively monitoring reports that a strain of the ransomware known as Petya is spreading in Russia, Ukraine, and elsewhere.
- Ransomware is a type of malicious software that infects a computer and restricts users' access to it until a ransom is paid to unlock it.
- Individuals and organizations are discouraged from paying the ransom, as this does not guarantee access will be restored.
- Patch/update systems immediately. Using unpatched and unsupported software increases the risk of cybersecurity threats such as ransomware.
- The FBI and DHS are working with public and private, domestic and international partners to respond to this event and provide technical information for prevention and remediation.

Update on WannaCry

- On Friday, when we first began receiving reports of WannaCry, our U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) began sharing information and coordinating with other CERTS around the world, as well as industry, security experts and researchers, to understand the scope of the malware and how best to mitigate it.
- Through the weekend, we have continued to share information broadly, identify potential victims, and share with them best practices and technical information, as well as gather more information about the malware.
- We have issued an alert through US-CERT, issued a joint product with the FBI, and worked with the Small Business Administration to reach businesses across the country.
- Our cybersecurity analysts are working 24/7 to ensure we have the latest information and can provide support to affected entities, as needed.

IF ASKED: Is this the same vulnerability that was used in WannaCry?

- It is too soon to discuss the technical details of this event.

IF ASKED: Do you have a sense of how widespread this is? Are there U.S. companies affected?

- This weekend, we did receive reports of a small number of potential U.S. victims, none of whom had significant disruptions to their operations.
- We cannot discuss details, beyond saying that they were in multiple sectors, because the only way to preserve our voluntary partnerships with these entities and encourage them to share information with us is to keep their identities confidential.

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IF ASKED: Are the federal government's networks secure?

- At this time, there are no reports of federal agencies affected.

IF ASKED: Can you put this attack into perspective? Is it unprecedented?

- Ransomware has become more prevalent in the last year or so, and DHS and our partners have been working to raise awareness, including encouraging patching of systems.
- While the attack is fairly widespread in terms of the number of countries and entities affected, according to our cybersecurity analysts, it does not appear to be particularly sophisticated and can be mitigated fairly easily.

IF ASKED: Seeing as this is the first major cybersecurity event under your watch, what are your initial impressions?

- First and foremost, I am blown away by the professionalism and competence of the DHS cyber team. They were able to turn on a dime as the work week was coming to a close and spin up a comprehensive response. Many worked through Friday night and straight through the weekend – some had to jettison their Mother's Day plans to ensure we were all protected. I'm proud of the team and have complete confidence in them.

IF ASKED: Should people pay the ransom?

- The best way to deal with ransomware is to practice good cybersecurity and avoid it in the first place.
- The U.S. Government does not recommend paying a ransom to criminal actors.
- We do not keep track of whether people have or have not paid.

IF ASKED: Do we know who was behind this? Was it Russia?

- As I mentioned, DHS' focus is on prevention and mitigation, as opposed to attribution, which is the role of law enforcement.
- I would refer you to the FBI.

IF ASKED: Can you tell me what we're doing in response to the WannaCry ransomware situation:

- The Department's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center has been leading our response efforts since Friday, working with partners in industry, other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and international partners, to share information on the threat and how to prevent it, also providing technical assistance to those in need.
- Under the US Government's unified approach to cyber incident response doctrine, DHS leads "asset response" efforts – helping organizations identify and patch vulnerabilities, helping victims respond and recover from attacks, and helping minimize the risk of future incidents.
- We're continuing to monitor the evolving situation, scanning federal networks for attacks, and assisting victims in the critical infrastructure community. I anticipate we'll be working on this for some time as copy cats pop up and as long as there are still unpatched systems out there.
- This brings me to my Public Service Announcement for the day: please, please, please, make sure your systems are up to date and don't click on suspicious email links or attachments.

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IF ASKED: Is cyber security a terrorism issue and what are we doing to protect ourselves:

- We're certainly seeing terrorists increasingly develop cyber capabilities. DHS's mission is to protect and secure networks. We partner with industry to share information on cyber threats to ensure we're stopping malicious traffic regardless of the source. In terms of taking on terrorists directly, our interagency partners have authorities and capabilities to take the fight to the bad guys.

IF ASKED: What is DHS's role in implementing last week's Executive Order on Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure:

- DHS has a lead role in many of the tasks outlined in the EO and reinforces the Department's role in protecting federal and critical infrastructure networks. We'll build on our strong operational relationships with our interagency partners and our trusted partnerships with the private sector to carry out our mission.

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COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Talking Points

- After careful review, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly has approved grant awards as part of the congressionally established Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program.
- The awards will advance America's capacity to counter terrorist recruitment and radicalization in the United States through community-driven solutions.
- DHS will award 26 grants -- totaling $10 million for two years of programming -- to organizations that will work to improve the security of our communities and prevent terrorism.
- Grantees were selected in part because of their potential to support law enforcement and other frontline defenders, to demonstrate programmatic effectiveness, and to use taxpayer resources efficiently to create independently sustainable programs.
- Grants were approved for local law enforcement agencies, state and local government agencies, universities, and non-profit organizations.
- DHS received nearly 200 applications, from 40 states and territories and the District of Columbia, including 106 non-university non-profits, 60 state and local government organizations, and 31 universities.

Background

- In December 2015, Congress appropriated $10 million for DHS to award grants to state and local governments, universities and non-profit organizations in order to assist local communities in their own efforts to counter violent extremism.
- These grants are the first of their kind in the US, and as DHS oversees and evaluates the performance of each grant, we will broaden our understanding of how to best advance DHS's terrorism prevention mission, especially in light of the uptick in homegrown terrorist activity.
- The grants are structured around five focus areas: developing community resilience to violent extremism recruitment; training for, and engagement with, local partners tackling the challenge of violent extremism; support for programs that intervene in the radicalization process to "off-ramp" potentially radicalized individuals; challenging extremists' narratives; and building the capacity of local partners to sustainably address issues related to violent extremism.
- Awardees are required to affirm acceptance of the grants and agree to terms and conditions, such as providing performance data.

IF ASKED: What is CVE?

- CVE is the term Congress chose to use to define this grant program.
- CVE refers to non-coercive, non-kinetic activities to counter terrorist recruitment and radicalization here at home.

IF ASKED: What is the purpose of the CVE Grant Program? How does the purpose differ from the purpose of FEMA's FY 2016 Program to Prepare Communities for Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA) Program?

- This is the first competitive federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities in the United States with the resources to counter terrorist recruitment and

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radicalization. This funding will help local authorities and non-profit organizations with resources to help prevent terrorist recruitment and radicalization, notably through building local capacity and challenging the narrative of groups like ISIS. These preventive programs should not be confused with protective and preparation activities performed through other national security authorities.

IF ASKED: How much funding was available this year for the program? How much was awarded in previous years?

- $10 million for two (2) years of programming.
- This is the first (and currently only) year of funding for this program.

IF ASKED: How much funding will be available next year for the program?

- Congress has not appropriated additional funding for this purpose in FY17.

IF ASKED: Why was funding zeroed out for next year? Does DHS anticipate asking Congress for additional appropriations for CVE grants?

- Congress indicated in the joint explanatory statement that funds were not provided in FY2017 because funds provided in FY2016 had not yet been expended. The President's budget for FY2018 does not specifically request additional funding for a standalone CVE Grant Program.
- DHS will continue to work with local communities on terrorism prevention. Moreover, for state and local governments, certain related activities are allowable expenses under the Homeland Security Grant Program.

IF ASKED: Who was eligible to apply for these funds?

- Eligible Applicants were limited to: states, local governments, tribal governments, non-profit organizations and institutions of higher education.

IF ASKED: How did the change in Administrations impact the program? Who had final approval? Why were these revised?

- The Department reviewed the program—within the parameters of existing grant guidance and consistent with appropriate procedures—to ensure the grant process was properly organized for the selection of grantees that had demonstrated potential effectiveness, prioritized sustainability, and provided adequate support to frontline defenders. Secretary Kelly approved the final list.
- Planned awardees for the program were previously announced in January of this year. While the majority of the planned awardees originally announced were retained, some changed due to the determination that other organizations would implement programs that were more effective, sustainable, and better partners for state and local law enforcement.

IF ASKED: What happens to the applicants who were announced in January?

- Of the 26 applicants receiving awards, 19 were on the original list.
- Other applications mentioned in the January announcement will not receive an award.

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IF ASKED: Why did it take so long between preliminary and final award announcements?

- With the transition to a new Administration, the Department needed to fully review this new program to ensure that it was on a sustainable path and geared toward efforts that would be best situated to further the DHS terrorism prevention mission.

IF ASKED: Why were seven preliminary awardees dropped from the final list? What caused the additional seven to be added?

- Consistent with the Notice of Funding Opportunity, the Department utilized its discretion to consider other factors and information when reviewing applicants; accordingly, additional priorities (noted above) were applied to the existing pool of applicants. Top scoring applications that were consistent with these priorities remained, while others did not, largely due to concerns regarding effectiveness in this mission space and prospects for long-term sustainability.

IF ASKED: How do you respond to the criticism that the delay in awarding the grants negatively impacted programs that were counting on continued funding?

- With a new program spending taxpayer funds on a complex challenge, it was important to carefully consider the trajectory of the program to ensure it would have the maximum impact for the taxpayer and advance the Department's terrorism prevention mission.

IF ASKED: How many organizations that received CVE grant funding previously were not awarded funds this year? What caused them to be dropped?

- No programs received funding under this program previously.

IF ASKED: Did any of the applicants who publicly rejected their announced awards ultimately receive funding? How many and which organizations requested to be dropped from consideration? What explanations were given for their rejections?

- Applicants who contacted DHS to request that their application be withdrawn from consideration did not receive an award after the conclusion of the policy review.

IF ASKED: There is now only one awardee that is a Muslim organization while there were several such organizations on the January list of planned awardees? Why the change?

- The Department seeks to prevent terrorist recruitment and radicalization overall, including for Islamist-inspired violent extremism. Moreover, the Department rejects the premise that an organization must be directly affiliated with Islam in order to play a critical role in preventing radicalization to Islamist-inspired violent extremism. It should be noted that the Notice of Funding Opportunity encouraged partnerships in executing projects under this grant program, and some recipients intend to partner with religious organizations, including Islamic organizations.
- Many of the applicants—and many of the Department's intended awards—proposed programming that has the potential to prevent all forms of violent extremism, including but not limited to Islamist terror activity. The Department approaches the terror threat in a risk-based, intelligence-driven manner; however, whether an applicant was affiliated with any particular religion played no role in the final decisions regarding which organizations would be offered an award.

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- Muslim organizations and community leaders have been strong partners to the Department since efforts to combat terrorist recruitment and radicalization began, and we expect that to continue.

IF ASKED: What were the changes made after the January preliminary award announcement?

- No awards were made immediately following the January announcement. Utilizing the discretion provided in statute and in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, the Department assessed the program to ensure it met the goals of countering terrorist recruitment and radicalization in a way that supported law enforcement, put forward effective solutions, and would provide sustainable outcomes in the long term. While many of the awards remained the same, some changed as a result of this review.

IF ASKED: Congress did not provide additional funding for this program in the Departments' FY 2017 appropriation and the Administration's 2018 budget does not request these funds. Why continue the program this year if it will not be renewed?

- Congress directed the Department in the joint explanatory statement for FY 2017 appropriations to expend the CVE grant funds without delay, as it had specifically provided funding for this grant program in FY 2016 and made that funding available to cover two budget years.
- With regard to the FY18 budget, there are many competing priorities and several grant programs continue to allow such terrorism prevention activities as eligible expenses, including the Homeland Security Grant Program.

IF ASKED: What about programs in so-called "sanctuary cities" – will they receive funding?

- The Department was prohibited from applying the Executive Order's direction to withhold funds from "sanctuary jurisdictions" because of a court order issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The Department did not determine whether any grant recipients under this program qualified as a "sanctuary jurisdiction" before making awards.

IF ASKED: Were applicants encouraged to partner with state/local/municipal officials/entities?

- One of the CVE Grant Program Goals is to establish partnerships between local communities and the private sector, including technology, entertainment and marketing professionals, to identify and amplify credible voices online and promote counter-narratives against violent extremist messaging. As is stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Grant Focus Area 3 specifically calls for locally based coalitions to engage in intervention activities; develop and support community-based, non-law-enforcement efforts.

IF ASKED: Who scored the applications? What qualifications were required of the review panel? Can you provide us those names/that information?

- Applications were reviewed in consistent with a 2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity and scored by a review panel comprised of four reviewers: three subject matter experts (SME) – one each from the DHS Office for Community Partnerships, the interagency CVE Task

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Force, and a non-federal SME representing an organization active in countering terrorist recruitment and radicalization – and one FEMA Grant Programs Directorate Official. The non-federal SME was selected by the Director of the Office for Community Partnerships. Senior leadership from the DHS Office for Community Partnerships, FEMA, the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and the CVE Task Force reviewed all scoring results.

- To protect the integrity of the review panels' deliberative review process, DHS does not provide the names of panelists who reviewed a particular application, or panelists' scores and comments. Withholding this information helps to ensure that panelists will be candid with their comments and reviews and protects the objectivity of the overall review process.

IF ASKED: What criteria were award decisions based on?

- Please see the attached 2016 Noticing of Funding Opportunity announcement which describes the Application Evaluation Criteria (Technical Merit, Needs Analysis, Community Partnerships, Cost Effectiveness/Sustainability, Innovation, Outcomes/Data and Budget) with an extensive section outlining the grant review and selection process.

IF ASKED: Was regional/geographic and demographic balance taken into consideration when making award determinations?

- Some regional balance was considered, primarily when several projects were proposed from the same location.

IF ASKED: How are grant budgets determined?

- Budgets are submitted as part of the application. If the award amount is different than the request, OCP and FEMA notify and work with the grantee on finalization.

IF ASKED: Are the grants limited to addressing Islamist-inspired threats such as ISIS?

- While some projects focus specifically on the ISIS threat, most projects funded under this program develop capabilities to counter all forms of violent extremism, which could also be used to counter ISIS or other persistent and emerging terrorist threats.

IF ASKED: How do these grants enhance the resilience of communities targeted by violent extremists?

- Projects funded under this program contribute to resiliency efforts in several ways:
  - Providing information through trainings and development of training curriculum to community members so they are better equipped to handle a situation of radicalization if they encounter it.
  - Ensuring law enforcement engagement with communities to decrease barriers to reporting.
  - Developing models for assessing and countering recruitment and radicalizations efforts.
  - Promoting key mental health and social services for at-risk individuals.

IF ASKED: How will success and effectiveness of the grant recipients programs be measured?

- Recipients are required to report quarterly, or more frequently in unusual circumstances. The Office for Community Partnerships will evaluate projects for best practices and models for replication in other geographic regions. The Department of Homeland Security Science and

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Technology Directorate will select several projects to undergo a third party formal evaluation.

IF ASKED: Did any organization with ties to a known terrorist organization receive the CVE grant funding?

- No. The organizations representing the top-scoring applications were vetted by law enforcement and intelligence entities to identify any potential terrorist ties.

IF ASKED: What is the vetting authority for these grants? How were the applicants screened/vetted?

- The System of Records Notice covering the ND Grants system allows information entered into the system to be used to determine eligibility for grant awards. The Notice of Funding Opportunity provides DHS wide latitude in determining applicant responsibility and suitability, including potential ties to terrorism or criminal activity that would be disqualifying. DHS also published a PIA specifically describing the security review process.

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BORDER SECURITY

Talking Points

- Since the Administration's implementation of Executive Orders to enforce immigration laws, apprehensions and inadmissible activity is trending toward the lowest monthly total in at least the last five years.
- June data is expected the week of 7/3/2017.
- In April, U.S. CBP saw a decrease in individuals apprehended along the Southwest border as well as a decrease in those found inadmissible at ports of entry on the Southwest border of 5 percent compared to last month and a 68 percent decrease over the same period last year.
  - A total of 11,129 individuals were apprehended between ports of entry on our Southwest Border, compared with 12,193 in March and 18,754 in January.
  - A total of 4,651 people presenting themselves at ports of entry on the Southwest Border were deemed inadmissible compared to 4,404 in March and 4,807 in February.
- CBP expects the seasonal uptick in apprehensions and inadmissibles in the coming summer months based on historic trends.
- As directed in Secretary Kelly's memoranda implementing the President's executive orders, we remain committed to carrying out fair, impartial and humane enforcement of the nation's immigration laws.
- We will remain vigilant to respond to any changes in these trends, as numbers of illegal crossings typically increase between March and May. However, the early results show that enforcement matters, deterrence matters, and that comprehensive immigration enforcement can make an impact.

Border Wall Additional Talking Points:

- To achieve operational control of the border, CBP must employ personnel, infrastructure, and technology—all 3 are needed to be effective.
- As history has shown in places like California and Arizona, border security is achievable with the right system of personnel, technology and border infrastructure
- CBP relies on these 4 interdependent master capabilities to support border security—one of which is achieved through border walls
- CBP solicited industry for wall designs with the intent to construct multiple prototypes. We're currently reviewing & evaluating those proposals.
- The border infrastructure will be an important part of a tremendously broad and far-reaching effort to secure the border
- In FY 2017, Congress provided CBP funding to replace old fencing and install new gates.
- For Fiscal Year, CBP has prioritized areas in Rio Grande Valley and San Diego for replacement and new levee and border wall systems.
- CBP will construct border wall systems in areas prioritized by US Border Patrol where they will make a difference for agents on the frontline

- Our success depends on the vigilant & dedicated men & women of CBP who serve on the frontline to protect the American people from all threats

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IF ASKED: If numbers are at an all-time low, why do we need a wall along the southern border?

- Augmenting and improving the physical barrier along our southern border is just one part of a comprehensive strategy to securing our nation's borders.
- We will remain vigilant to respond to any changes in these trends, as numbers of illegal crossings typically increase between March and May. However, the early results show that enforcement matters, deterrence matters, and that comprehensive immigration enforcement can make an impact.

IF ASKED: How much is the wall going to cost?

- At this time, any estimates of the total border wall cost are premature as there are many variables that are currently unknown.
- The budget request of $2.6 billion is to assist U.S. CBP with the implementation of the entirety of the Executive Order on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements.
- All historic dollar amounts noted in CBP's briefing on the Hill are associated with costs for legacy fence, acquisitions, U.S. Army Corps of Engineering expenses, etc. from the 2008 time period at specific locations.
- Costs cannot, and should not, be used to extrapolate future cost estimates for other locations.
- This budget request includes significantly more than just border wall as technology and hiring are also key requirements under the Executive Order.

IF ASKED: The OIG indicated the prototype contract awards would be announced on June 21 - Is the Wall project already behind schedule?

- The prototype selection is proceeding as planned. The June 21st date was provided to the Office of the Inspector General as a notional date, provided early in the process and was not meant to be a firm deadline. We told the IG when we reviewed the report that things evolved and that date was wrong, but it remained in the report. The process however, is proceeding as we planned.
- CBP expects to award multiple contracts for prototype construction in summer 2017 with a 30-day period of performance from issuance of Notice to Proceed. The prototypes will inform the final design standard which will likely continue to evolve to meet USBP's requirements. Any and all prototypes will be designed to deter illegal entry into the United States.

IF ASKED: Will CBP follow the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process for prototype construction?

- CBP is currently assessing its options with respect to environmental compliance for prototype construction. CBP remains committed to responsible environmental stewardship.
- ***IF PRESSED:*** At this time, no decisions have been made as to whether CBP will follow the traditional NEPA process or request that the Secretary exercise his authority to waive certain legal requirements. .

IF ASKED: I heard there is a protest with GAO already – How will that impact the prototype selection process?

- CBP is still evaluating the potential impact the protest may have.

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IF ASKED: Why is CBP seeking to construct prototypes?

- Prototyping is an industry-tested approach to define the best solution when considering a new product or methodology. Through the construction of prototypes, CBP will partner with industry to identify the best means and methods to construct border wall before making a more substantial investment in construction.

IF ASKED: Where will the prototypes be constructed?

- CBP anticipates constructing multiple prototypes in the San Diego Sector Area of Responsibility because of site accessibility to construct and the ability to evaluate wall as part of a larger, existing border infrastructure system. The site selection was based, in large measure, on considerations such as accessibility and the ability to evaluate wall as part of a larger, existing border security system.

IF ASKED: Will Solar Panels be included as part of the wall per the President's recent comments?

- The RFPs highlighted innovation, but since contract(s) have yet to be awarded, it's not yet known whether solar panels will be a part of the alternative materials RFP. We can't release information about particular proposals as that is still procurement sensitive information.

Wall Design

IF ASKED: How will CBP select a wall prototype?

- CBP will leverage the lessons learned from prototype construction to develop a standard border wall design for future construction as part of a border wall system. This standard will be developed collaboratively and will account for Administration priorities, USBP operational requirements, cost effectiveness, constructability and durability.

IF ASKED: What are the criteria for choosing the design of a border wall?

- Several criteria are considered to include anti-climb features, anti-breach, anti-dig, durability, constructability, aesthetics, and innovative design are all important considerations in choosing design.

IF ASKED: Will the prototypes remain after construction as part of the border wall system or are they only being built as models or examples?

- Prototypes will be asked to meet minimum specifications for border security. As a result, CBP anticipates that some border wall prototypes may remain in place after construction. However, final determinations will not be made until after prototype construction and evaluation has occurred.

IF ASKED: How long and high is each wall prototype, and how much additional mileage does CBP expect to construct as a "follow-on" to the prototype(s)?

- Each wall prototype will be 30 feet long and between approximately 18 and 30 feet high. CBP anticipates initial rate construction to begin subsequent to prototype construction and include up to approximately 14 additional miles of wall, subject to the availability of funding.

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RFPs:

IF ASKED: What is CBP doing in response to the Executive Order 13767: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement?

- In response to Executive Order 13767: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements, CBP released two RFPs to acquire multiple conceptual wall design(s) with the intent to construct multiple prototype(s). The two RFPs will allow CBP to evaluate each design category independently allowing for the best concrete wall designs and the best alternative wall designs for award, construction and evaluation.

IF ASKED: What are the differences between the two RFPs?

- One RFP solicits concepts for reinforced concrete wall designs and the other solicits alternative designs other than reinforced concrete. Proposals that result from both RFPs must meet the minimum U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) requirements as stipulated in the Statements of Work.

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H-2B VISAS

Talking Points:

- The Secretary has made a decision to assist a limited number of seasonal businesses that would be severely harmed if they do not receive temporary employment relief under the H2B program.
- The number of additional H2B visas is being determined in coordination with DHS and the Department of Labor.
- These visas may not be issued until late July, at the earliest, because of the lateness in passage of legislation granting the Secretary discretion to grant additional visas to businesses with truly seasonal needs, the need to coordinate with the Department of Labor to identify businesses truly at risk if they do not receive additional temporary workers, and the myriad steps required under federal rule-making before DHS can issue new visas.
- The Secretary did not make this decision lightly and is exercising his authority in an effort to help businesses around the country at risk of failing.
- He is concerned that Congress is passing the buck by not clearly legislating the H2B visa numbers, and expects that this one-time occurrence is an anomaly.
- The Administration and the Department are committed to protecting American jobs and U.S. workers. DHS is only seeking to provide visas to truly seasonal industries that would be severely/significantly harmed by not receiving H2B visas which would adversely impact US workers employed by these seasonal businesses.

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FY 2018 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Talking Points

- The FY 2018 Budget for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is $70.7 billion in total budget authority and $44.1 billion in appropriated funds. An additional $6.8 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) is provided separately, pursuant to the *Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA)*.
- This budget makes an important down payment on the Administration's Priorities for Border Security, Interior Enforcement, and Cybersecurity.
  - Border Security ($2.7 billion):
    - 74 miles of physical barrier and future planning activities
    - Border security technology and tactical infrastructure (roads, gates, etc.)
    - 500 additional Border Patrol Agents and support personnel
    - Expands training capacity at FLETC
    - Increase to the National Targeting Center to improve intelligence and targeting capabilities to establish a baseline to screen and vet international travelers and for counter-terrorism and counter narcotics efforts
  - Interior Enforcement ($1.65 billion):
    - Increases detention beds to 51,379
    - Increases to transportation and alternatives to detention (ATD)
    - 1,000 additional officers/agents and 606 support personnel
    - Supports nationwide mandatory use of E-Verify
  - Cybersecurity ($971 million)
    - Secures the Federal network, responds to incidents, disseminates actionable information, and collaborates with partners to secure critical infrastructure from cyber threats
- This budget takes a fiscally responsible approach to fund the above investments and includes tough trade-off decisions. A guiding principle was to look at redundant programs, as well as potential cost sharing arrangements that shift part of the financial burden from the federal taxpayer onto those who most benefit from provided services.
  - Introduces a 25 percent non-Federal cost-share for preparedness grants, consistent with the requirements for disaster recovery grants
  - Realigns funding for Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) from the federal taxpayer to user fees within the National Flood Insurance Program
  - Proposes an increase to TSA's aviation passenger security fee by $1.00 each way, generating $530 million in fee revenue
- The FY 2018 request sustains funding for the USCG and its important mission of ensuring maritime safety, security, and stewardship, including $500 million for the first Offshore Patrol Cutter and long-lead time materials for a second.
- This budget funds 7,150 personnel for the USSS.
- Increases TSA workforce (629 screeners) to support projected travel volume growth.

IF ASKED: Challenging the USCG sustained funding levels.

- The president's FY18 budget request sustains current funding levels for the U.S. Coast Guard and their critical mission.

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- On the surface, we agree it looks like the USCG funding decreases from the FY 2017 Annualized CR to the FY 2018 request. However, the funding level for FY 2017 ACR included a significant investment added by the Congress in the FY 2016 appropriation for the 9th NSC, an increase of $640 million. When this one time investment is taken into account the funding level between the FY 2017 ACR and the FY 2018 request shows a growth in the USCG budget of $280 million, or a growth of $135 million from the FY17 Enacted funding level.
- The FY 2017 enacted funding of USCG totals $8.625 billion, while the president's FY 2018 request totals $8.760billion, a growth of $135 million.

You can find the enacted level in P.L. 115-31 (Due to the delayed enactment of the FY 2017 Enacted Appropriation - all materials for the FY18 request are built from the FY 2017 ACR funding, not the FY 2017 Enacted.)

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IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES

Talking Points

- The Department's top enforcement priorities include aliens convicted of or charged with crimes, illegal re-entrants, immigration fugitives and any individuals who pose a threat the national security and public safety or to the integrity of our immigration system.
- Like any law enforcement agency, ICE has to prioritize their limited resources.
- However the president made it clear in his executive order that DHS will no longer exempt any classes or categories of removable aliens.
- ICE and CBP are federal law enforcement agencies charged with enforcing the law as it is written.

Background

- Since President Trump's executive order expanded the department's immigration enforcement priorities from convicted criminal aliens to anyone in the country unlawfully, the issue of which classes of aliens ICE is going to focus their enforcement efforts on has been a hot topic for congress, the press and the immigration advocacy community.
- Advocates and members of congress have been pressing DHS to promise that ICE enforcement activities would be restricted to certain categories of aliens (i.e.: convicted criminals, recent border crossers, etc.).
- However, since the executive order allows ICE to prioritize other classes of aliens that were restricted by the previous administration (immigration fugitives, illegal re-entrants and aliens here unlawfully), congress, the media and NGOs will undoubtedly begin pointing to cases they deem as sympathetic to illustrate their assertions that ICE is "unshackled" or that the Department is wasting resources on low level cases.
- Consequently, in discussing ICE's enforcement priorities, DHS must balance emphasizing our public safety and national security mission (i.e. arresting convicted criminals) alongside our mission to secure the border and ensure the integrity of our immigration systems (i.e. arresting immigration fugitives, people who have re-entered the country unlawfully after deportation, recent border crossers and other individuals who have undermined the immigration laws of our country).

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DAPA

Talking Points

- On June 15, Department of Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly, after consulting with the Attorney General, signed a memorandum rescinding the November 20, 2014 memorandum that created the program known as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents ("DAPA") because there is no credible path forward to litigate the currently enjoined policy.
- The rescinded memo purported to provide a path for illegal aliens with a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident child to be considered for deferred action. To be considered for deferred action, an alien was required to satisfy six criteria:
  - As of November 20, 2014, be the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident;
  - Have continuously resided here since before January 1, 2010;
  - Have been physically present here on November 20, 2014, and when applying for relief;
  - Have no lawful immigration status on that date;
  - Not fall within the Secretary's enforcement priorities; and
  - "Present no other factors that, in the exercise of discretion, make [ ] the grant of deferred action inappropriate."

IF ASKED: Why is DHS rescinding the policy?

- Secretary Kelly considered a number of factors, including the nationwide injunction of the DAPA memorandum, the ongoing litigation, the fact that DAPA never took effect, and our new immigration enforcement priorities.

IF ASKED: Why was DAPA never implemented?

- Federal courts halted the policy before it was implemented.

IF ASKED: What were the factors to be considered for DAPA?

- To request consideration for deferred action under DAPA, the alien must have satisfied the following criteria:
  - As of November 20, 2014, be the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident;
  - Have continuously resided here since before January 1, 2010;
  - Have been physically present here on November 20, 2014, and when applying for relief;
  - Have no lawful immigration status on that date;
  - Not fall within the Secretary's enforcement priorities; and
  - "Present no other factors that, in the exercise of discretion, make the grant of deferred action inappropriate."
- The Memorandum also directed USCIS to expand the coverage criteria under the 2012 DACA policy to encompass aliens with a wider range of ages and arrival dates, and to lengthen the period of deferred action and work authorization from two years to three ("Expanded DACA").
- The Department has not changed any policies related to DACA recipients.
- The grounds for termination of an individual's DACA status have not changed since the creation of the program.

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IF ASKED: Will this affect DACA?

- This rescission will not affect the terms of the original DACA program as outlined in the June 15, 2012 memorandum.

IF ASKED: Does this mean that DACA recipients will not be able to apply for a three-year work authorization, as established in the DAPA memorandum?

- DACA recipients will continue to be eligible as outlined in the June 15, 2012 memorandum.
- DACA recipients who were issued three-year extensions before the district court's injunction will not be affected, and will be eligible to seek a two-year extension upon their expiration.
- No work permits will be terminated prior to their current expiration dates.

Background

- Prior to implementation of DAPA, twenty-six states challenged the policies established in the DAPA memorandum in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.
- The district court enjoined implementation of the DAPA memorandum, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court's decision, and the Supreme Court allowed the district court's injunction to remain in place.

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DACA

Talking Points

- USCIS continues to process new DACA applications as well as requests for renewal of DACA status

IF ASKED: Is DHS targeting DACA recipients?

- The Department has not changed any policies related to DACA recipients.
- The grounds for termination of an individual's DACA status have not changed since the creation of the program.
- DACA recipients who are found to pose a risk to public safety or national security due to criminal convictions or gang affiliation may have their DACA terminated at any time.
- Since the creation of the DACA program, more than 1500 individuals have had their DACA status terminated due to criminal convictions or gang affiliation.

Background

- The fact that there haven't been any changes to the DACA program under the new administration has been met with wide praise from congress, advocacy groups and the media.
- However, because immigration enforcement is under a public microscope at the moment, cases that might not have otherwise gained attention, are picking up a lot of press.
- This is particularly true with regard to cases of DACA recipients arrested by ICE due to the suspicion that they might be in violation of their DACA due to gang affiliation or criminal convictions.
- It is likely that cases like the ones below will continue to receive coverage as advocacy organizations look for ways to paint ICE's immigration enforcement efforts as draconian in nature.

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CAM

Talking Points

- On January 25, President Trump signed an Executive Order entitled Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements that called for the Department of Homeland Security to take action to ensure that parole authority under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)) is exercised only on a case-by-case basis and only when an individual demonstrates urgent humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit.
- I have reviewed the Central American Minors (CAM) Parole program and concluded that continuation of the program is no longer supported by statutorily-required "significant public benefit" reasons.
- Accordingly, DHS will no longer automatically consider parole requests from individuals denied refugee status in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras under the CAM Parole program.

IF ASKED: Does the termination of the CAM Parole program affect the CAM Refugee program and its operation?

- No.

IF ASKED: How does this affect CAM parolees already in the U.S.?

- CAM parolees already in the United States will be able to apply for re-parole under existing standard re-parole procedures before their current parole period expires, provided that their parole has not been terminated for other reasons in accordance with DHS regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 212.5.
- They are encouraged to submit any requests for re-parole at least 90 days before expiration of their period for parole.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GENEVA SANDS
Justice and Homeland Security Reporter
ABC News



Geneva Sands is a Washington, D.C. based reporter, covering the DOJ and DHS for ABC News. Her work appears in The Hill, Fusion, and Yahoo! News, as well as local stations in Phoenix, Ariz., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Harrisburg, Pa., and Austin, Texas.

Geneva is a graduate of American University with a bachelor's degree in international studies and the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

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From:	Wuco, Frank (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
Subject:	FW: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Friday, July 21, 2017
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To: DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Friday, July 21, 2017

The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2017 5:00 AM EDT

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Leading DHS News:

SECRETARY KELLY: DHS AUTHORIZATION BILL MUST BE SUPPORTED BY BOTH PARTIES. In an op-ed for The Hill (7/20, Kelly, 1.61M) "Congress Blog," Secretary Kelly says DHS has "been in the business of keeping Americans safe" since the Homeland Security Act was passed in 2002. Kelly explains that the "men and women of DHS have worked tirelessly to uphold" the mission of protecting the homeland. Kelly adds that the "world is not the same today as it was when the Department was first authorized," and explains that the Department needs "updated authorities, updated support, and updated accountability for the world we live in today." He announces his support for the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017, which "would be the Department's first ever reauthorization – and for certain parts of the Department would be their first actual authorization." Kelly calls the legislation "unprecedented," and says it "reflects the Department's importance in our national security efforts, and solidifies our mission to protect our nation and its future." Kelly "also appreciate[s] the bill's emphasis on improving morale throughout the Department." He says he has "made it a priority to ensure the men and women of the Department are empowered to do the jobs they were trained and hired to do and get the credit they are due as they protect the homeland" from the moment he became Secretary. Kelly concludes that there is "no more important mission – no duty more sacred – than protecting the people of the United States, and I strongly encourage members in both parties to support this legislation."

House Votes To Reauthorize DHS. The Hill (7/20, Marcos, 1.61M) reports the House voted on Thursday to reauthorize DHS by a vote of 386-41. The Hill says if the bill is passed by the Senate, "it would be the first-ever reauthorization of [DHS] since it was created in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks." The Hill explains that the bill "reauthorizes and makes some updates to counterterrorism, emergency preparedness and maritime security programs within the DHS, as well as the Transportation Security Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Coast Guard, Secret Service, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Immigration and Customs Enforcement." The Hill explains some of the changes in the legislation, such as "requiring the Secret Service director to be confirmed by the Senate," and preventing the DHS Secretary "from appointing assistant secretaries without the approval of Congress."

The Washington Examiner (7/20, Giaritelli, 403K) quotes House Speaker Paul Ryan as saying, "Today, Congress ensured that the Department of Homeland Security has the resources it needs to keep terrorists, traffickers, and smugglers out of the United States." The bill is the bill is the "first time Congress has had a chance to tweak the department's mission since it was formed in 2002." The Examiner says the "575-page bill streamlines and consolidates DHS agencies; creates processes to make the 229,000-person department more accountable on the cost and efficiency of programs; provides additional resources for front-line defenders and first responders;

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and strengthens U.S. security through various procedures."

NextGov (7/20) reports the bill "beef[s] up cyber protections at ports and airports." The reauthorization bill "would direct the Transportation Security Administration to conduct a broad assessment of cyber risks to aviation security and to be prepared to vet cyber protections of specific airports and airlines if requested." TSA "must also develop one program to enhance cyber threat information sharing across the aviation sector and another to assess cyber vulnerabilities in data stored by TSA PreCheck and other trusted traveler programs, according to the bill." The bill "also formally tasks the U.S. Coast Guard with ensuring cyber protections at U.S. ports and with helping port operators share cyber threat information."

The Lafayette (LA) Daily Advertiser (7/20, 134K) reports Rep. Clay Higgins "says his legislation to authorize the Department of Homeland Security will give Congress needed oversight powers that may yet trim the department's size and cost while improving its work product." Higgins "said the bill advances changes such as giving DHS more structure; authorizing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which enforces law governing border control; reauthorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Transportation Security Administration; streamlining DHS offices; enhancing cyber security defense; and replacing and modernizing Coast Guard assets to make that service branch more effective in protecting ports."

SECRETARY KELLY: US DRUG DEMAND IS CAUSING SUFFERING IN CENTRAL AMERICA. The Washington Examiner (7/20, Giaritelli, 403K) reports Secretary Kelly, during a discussion at the Aspen Security Forum, "said Thursday America's drug epidemic is as much the fault of Americans' demand for the product as it is the cartels smuggling the substances into the U.S." Kelly is quoted as saying, "The profits that come out of that drug market are fantastic and as a result the countries to our south, Mexico and further south, suffer terribly because of the violence and the trafficking, and the production. ... As Americans we should be ashamed of ourselves that we have done almost nothing to get our arms around drug demand … to try to influence the lives of folks who live in places like Central America, we work very very hard to inject investment."

SECRETARY KELLY: SECURING PORTS IS PRIORITY TO PREVENT TERRORISM. The AP (7/20) reports, "Security at shipping ports around the U.S., including testing containers and vessels for biological and radiological hazards, is a top priority to preventing terrorism, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said Thursday." Kelly "rode aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Aspen, near the Port of Los Angeles," and "viewed an array of new equipment used to test for radiation and biological threats." Kelly "said he believes the current security levels at U.S. shipping ports is adequate, but his agency must continue to research new technology to keep up with changing threats." While he was onboard the Aspen, "members of the Coast Guard conducted a training demonstration, simulating the boarding of a ship with a radiological threat."

KABC-TV Los Angeles (7/20, 483K) reports Kelly "said he was impressed by what he saw but said there is always room for improvement." He added, "The threat always changes...So we always have to be on top of that." The Ventura County (CA) Star (7/20, 181K) features a slideshow of Kelly's visit.

SECRETARY KELLY: PROSECUTING PARENTS MAY STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING. The AP (7/20) reports, "A plan to prosecute parents who pay smugglers to illegally bring their children across the U.S. border is aimed at quelling human trafficking, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said Thursday." Kelly "said he believes those who help human traffickers – including parents who pay for their children to be brought to the U.S. illegally – should be arrested and prosecuted."

Aviation Security:

DHS IMPLEMENTS FIRST PHASE OF UPDATED AVIATION SECURITY MEASURES. The Hill

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(7/20, Shelbourne, 1.61M) reports DHS "said Thursday that it has successfully implemented the first stage of new aviation security measures announced last month by DHS Secretary John Kelly." A DHS official "said the first phase of the new measures has been applied to more than 280 last-point-of-departure airports throughout the world, as well as 180 airlines." DHS press secretary David Lapan is quoted as saying, "The quick and decisive action taken by airlines, nations and stakeholders are a testament to our shared commitment to raising the bar on global aviation security. ... Airlines were able to implement the necessary enhanced security measures because of the close coordination and extensive communication between aviation partners and DHS/TSA. As we continue to secure global aviation in the coming weeks and months, this communication and partnership between the private sector and the U.S. government will be imperative." USA Today (7/20, Jansen, 10.05M) reports DHS "didn't detail the extra steps, other than to say that travelers might see more 3D scanners, more swabbing for traces of explosives and more bomb-sniffing dogs at checkpoints." NextGov (7/20, Kozlowska) reports the new security measures "are said to be a solution to avoid expanding the laptop ban the US imposed on nine airlines flying out of 10 airports in the Middle East and Africa." The Wall Street Journal (7/20, Carey, Subscription Publication, 6.99M), Reuters (7/20), and the AP (7/20, Koenig) report similarly.

DHS CONFIRMS LAPTOP BAN ON PLANES HAS BEEN LIFTED. The New York Times (7/20, Maidenberg, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports that DHS confirmed Thursday that passengers flying to the US "from airports in 10 Muslim-majority countries affected by the ban may now take their laptops and other large electronic devices into the cabin with them." The airlines and airports affected by the ban, which was imposed in March, "have all complied with the initial phase of the new Homeland Security standards, allowing the prohibition to be lifted, the department said." CBS News (7/20, 3.91M) reports similarly.

Continuing Coverage: Secretary Kelly Defends Implementing Aviation Security Measures. In continuing coverage, the Aspen (CO) Daily News (7/20, 27) reports Secretary Kelly "said Wednesday that terrorists' hope to bring down an airplane en route to the United States, something he called 'the Stanley Cup, the World Series' of terrorism, [led] to the ban...of certain personal electronic devices on planes headed to America." He also said the laptop ban was lifted this week, in part, "because of the respect that [terrorists] have for the TSA and the other things that we do at our airports and final points of departure."

GAO: TSA DOESN'T HAVE SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION TO DETECT TERRORISTS THROUGH BEHAVIOR. USA Today (7/20, Jansen, 10.05M) reports the TSA "doesn't have scientific justification for most of the behavioral clues that officers use to identify potential terrorists", the Government Accountability Office said in a report Thursday. Despite "a lack of scientific validation," TSA told the GAO "that some suspicious actions, such as a traveler having wires hanging out of clothing, can't be ignored." Still, DHS "responded that the behavior-detection program was eliminated before this fiscal year, and officers were integrated into the checkpoint workforce."

EASTERN IOWA AIRPORT ADDS TSA PRECHECK. The Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (7/20, Schmidt, 145K) reports the Eastern Iowa Airport "has become the second facility in the state" to offer TSA PreCheck. TSA public affairs manager Lorie Dankers is quoted as saying, "It's more convenient because you need to take less steps to get through the security checkpoint. ... It's faster, but it's also the convenience." TSA federal security director David Dailey said, "We're able to minimize the risk by offering them an expedited form of screening, which allows us then to focus our resources more on the unknowns, or the higher risk traveling population."

Immigration Policy:

DURBIN, GRAHAM FILE LEGISLATION AIMED AT WARDING OFF LEGAL CHALLENGE TO DACA. The Washington Post (7/20, Sacchetti, 12.92M) reports that Senate Minority Whip Durbin and Sen. Lindsey Graham, "hoping to fend off a legal challenge to a program that has spared

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nearly 800,000 young immigrants from deportation," made "a long-shot appeal to President Trump on Thursday to support legislation that would put those immigrants and thousands of others on a path to US citizenship." Durbin and Graham introduced legislation "that would grant permanent legal status to more than 1 million young people who arrived in the United States before they turned 18, passed security checks and met other criteria, including enrolling in college, joining the military or finding jobs." The Post adds that "as a candidate, Trump blasted President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, saying it was wrong to bypass Congress and give deportation protection" to undocumented immigrants "who came to the country as children."

Roll Call (7/20, Lesniewski, 91K) reports Graham "said he hoped that Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly would be empowered to develop a border security and internal enforcement policy that the overwhelming majority of senators could support, along with measures like the DREAM Act to address the needs of the undocumented immigrants already living within the United States." The Hill (7/20, Bernal, 1.61M) reports Sen. Graham also met with White House adviser Jared Kushner on Thursday to discuss immigration. Graham "added that [Secretary] Kelly, who has on multiple occasions expressed support for the immigrants covered under DACA, could be the key to widespread political support for the Dream Act." The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (7/20, Dumain, 287K) reports Graham became emotional as he "delivered an impassioned plea to colleagues to get on what he called the right side of history when it comes to the immigration debate."

However, the Daily Caller (7/20, Racke, 680K) reports the Administration "is not likely to throw its support behind a Senate plan to revive an amnesty bill for illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, administration officials said Wednesday." A White House official "told McClatchy that President Donald Trump would not sign an updated version of the Dream Act, a bipartisan proposal to codify the legal status of people currently eligible for protection under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)." The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (7/20, Leary, 964K) reports Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) does not support the revised Dream Act. Rubio said, "I'm not prepared to sign on to that legislation right now because I think there might be a better approach." Rubio "said legislation would have to provide 'appropriate resources,' which he defined as working with Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador to publicize what the law would do and not do."

In her column for the Chicago Sun-Times (7/20, Sweet, 862K), Lynn Sweet argues that Sen. John McCain's "tragic brain cancer" could "maybe, hollow out a political place for Republicans to pay tribute to McCain with a legacy piece of legislation," such as the DREAM Act. Lynn says McCain "has been a long-time champion of comprehensive immigration reform."

DEMOCRATIC STATE ATTORNEY GENERALS CALL ON TRUMP TO KEEP DACA. The Washington Post (7/21, Sacchetti, 12.92M) reports, "Attorneys general from 19 states and the District of Columbia are urging President Trump to save an Obama-era program that protects nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrants from deportation, and offering to help him defend it in court." The Post says the group is "twice the size of the 10-state coalition of Republican officials that have threatened to sue the Trump administration if it does not start to phase out the program by Sept. 5." The group wrote a letter that said, "The consequences of rescinding DACA would be severe, not just for the hundreds of thousands of young people who rely on the program – and for their employers, schools, universities and families – but for the country's economy as a whole."

FEDERAL JUDGE REFUSES TO REMOVE BLOCK ON SANCTUARY CITY ORDER. Reuters (7/20, Levine) reports US District Judge William Orrick III "refused to revisit a court order that blocks President Donald Trump's administration from carrying out a policy designed to threaten the granting of federal funds to so-called sanctuary cities." Orrick "ruled that a recent memo from the Justice Department that appeared to narrow the scope of Trump's executive order on sanctuary cities did not remove the need for a court-ordered injunction." He "wrote that the memo is not binding and the attorney general can revoke it at any time." Politico (7/20, Lima, 2.97M) reports similarly.

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SESSIONS TO DISCUSS SANCTUARY CITIES IN PHILADELPHIA ON FRIDAY. The AP (7/20) reports that Attorney General Sessions "is bringing the federal fight over so-called sanctuary cities to Philadelphia." According to the AP, "Sessions on Friday will visit the city that has said its local law enforcement will not act as immigration agents – a stance Sessions has challenged as unconstitutional." Sessions "recently singled out Philadelphia in speaking with law enforcement officials in Las Vegas, saying the city is 'advertising' its policy and "protecting criminals.""

TRUMP ORGANIZATION REQUESTS H-2B WORKERS DURING "MADE IN AMERICA WEEK." The Washington Post (7/20, Fahrenthold, 12.92M) reports, "President Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida has asked permission to hire 70 foreign workers this fall, attesting – in the middle of the White House's 'Made in America Week' – that it cannot find qualified Americans to serve as cooks, waiters and housekeepers." The Post says, "The applications to the Department of Labor are a first step in the process of applying for H-2B visas, which would allow the clubs to bring in foreigners for temporary work between October and next May. ... Now, the Labor Department – which reports to Trump – must make decisions that will affect two for-profit business that the president still owns." Vox (7/20, Campbell, 1.5M) says the policy change permitting the lifting of the H-2B cap "was surprising," and adds, "Trump has criticized other guest-worker programs for supposedly taking away jobs from Americans."

REFUGEES TO LEAVE PAPUA NEW GUINEA CAMP BY OCTOBER DESPITE "UNCERTAINTY" OVER US-AUSTRALIA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT DEAL. AFP (7/20) reports, "Hundreds of refugees being held at a remote Papua New Guinea detention camp will be moved by October despite uncertainty over a resettlement deal with the United States." AFP says, "The sudden withdrawal from PNG last week of American officials assessing the refugees sparked fears a deal with Washington to take them would not go ahead." AFP adds that DHS officials' withdrawal "came days after the US passed its annual 50,000-refugee intake cap." Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton is quoted saying, "We have been caught up in the US process, they have a quota each year. It was 110,000 people they were taking in the refugee program under President Obama, but President Trump has reduced that to 50,000. Their year finishes in September, so we have been pushed into October in terms of when people will move."

The AP (7/20, McGuirk, Press) reports, "Australia was disappointed that hundreds of its rejected refugees would not begin resettling in the United States this month under a deal that predates President Donald Trump's administration, an official said on Friday." Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton "said Australia wanted the refugees to start moving in July, but the United States had already filled its 50,000 refugee quota for the current fiscal year."

FRESNO STRUGGLING AMID INFLUX OF SYRIAN REFUGEES. The New York Times (7/20, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports that while refugees are "typically placed in towns and cities such as Buffalo, N.Y.; Boise, Idaho; and Fayetteville, Ark., where resettlement agencies ease their transition to life in a new country," they are "free to move about the country...and they sometimes land in places like Fresno that are not exactly prepared for their arrival." Since late 2016, more than 200 Syrian refugees have settled in Fresno. While cheap housing has been a draw, the city is "struggling with high poverty and unemployment, making it more difficult for the refugees to secure jobs." The city also "has no federally funded agency to help them find work."

MEMBERS OF BURUNDI ROBOTICS TEAM DISAPPEAR AFTER COMPETITION. USA Today (7/20, Bacon, 10.05M) reports that two of the six teen members of a robotics team from Burundi "disappeared after an international competition in Washington, DC" and were later seen crossing into Canada, police confirmed Thursday. "We don't have an update on the whereabouts (of the others), but we have no indication that there was foul play," police spokeswoman Margarita Mikhaylova told USA TODAY. She said the investigation was continuing. The AP (7/20, Barakat) reports international robotics competition event organizers "said Thursday that their disappearance may have been 'self-initiated,'" while a "member of the Burundi-American

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community was a little more straightforward, saying he has little doubt the teens are seeking asylum, though he emphasized he had no direct knowledge of the situation."

JEH JOHNSON: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DOWN BECAUSE OF TRUMP'S "RHETORIC." The Hill (7/20, Savransky, 1.61M) reports former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson appeared on CNN's "New Day" on Thursday and "attributed the decrease in illegal immigration on the southern border to President Trump's rhetoric." Johnson said, "Through his rhetoric, he scared off a lot of women and children in Central America who'd rather stay in their desperate circumstances or just migrate to Mexico and stop there. ... But these are really desperate women and children, women with babies in their arms, who are trying to flee the poverty and violence in the countries they left." He said the US should enforce law "in a humane manner consistent with our priorities."

CARA PROJECT HELPS IMMIGRANTS SEEKING ASYLUM. The Kansas City (MO) Pitch (7/20, 92K) reports on the CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project in Kansas City that "allows lawyers from across the country to represent those" who are seeking asylum. The project's database also "tracks immigrants being held, and helps to reunite family members separated during the journey."

CNN: KUSHNER'S WHITE HOUSE TOUTED TO ATTRACT CHINESE INVESTORS. In an "exclusive," CNN (7/20, Griffin, Devine, 44.83M) reports on its website that Jared Kushner's "status as a top aide to President Donald Trump was used to lure Chinese investors to his family's New Jersey development, even after his family's company apologized for mentioning his name during a sales pitch in May." CNN said, "References to Kushner are part of online promotions by two businesses that are working with Kushner Companies to find Chinese investors willing to invest in the 1 Journal Square development in exchange for a US visa. The promotions are posted in Chinese and refer to Kushner Companies as 'real estate heavyweights.' ... One posted online in May by the company US Immigration Fund, a private business based in Florida, also contains a reference to Kushner's appearance on the cover of December's Forbes Magazine, under the headline 'This guy got Trump elected.'"

White House Spokesman: Kushner Would Recuse Self From EB-5 Matters. The Economist (7/20, 7.89M) discusses the possible conflicts of interest that could arise with respect to Jared Kushner, who "has taken steps to distance himself from his wide-ranging property business" while serving as senior adviser to the President. However, he "kept his stake in many of the LLCs that make up the business" and retains "a passive ownership interest in about 90% of his holdings in property." The Economist briefly mentions an episode in which Kushner's sister mentioned his "new role in Washington" in a pitch to Chinese prospective EB-5 investors in one project, and says, "Kushner Companies apologised 'if that mention of her brother was in any way interpreted as an attempt to lure investors.'" The Economist cites a White House spokesman saying Kushner would recuse himself from anything involving EB-5 financing or other matters with "direct and predictable" effects on entities in which he retains a financial interest.

Border Wall:

VOX: SOLAR PANELS WOULD NOT PAY FOR BORDER WALL. Vox (7/20, Arrieta-Kenna, 1.5M) analyzes President Trump's statement concerning solar panels on the border wall, and that adding solar panels would mean the wall would "pa[y] for itself." Vox says a "back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that solar panels wouldn't come close to covering the cost for the 700 to 900 miles of wall Trump wants to build." Vox adds, "So when all is said and done, it looks like the solar panels, estimated to bring in at most $300 million a year, would hardly make a dent in the wall's costs."

NATIONAL BORDER PATROL COUNCIL PRESIDENT: BORDER FENCE WILL HELP PROTECT AMERICANS. In an op-ed for the Washington Times (7/20, Judd, 458K), National Border Patrol Council President Brandon Judd argues a "secure border fence, particularly the double-layered fencing called for in the bipartisan Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Pub.L. 109367) and

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which Mr. Trump pledged to build, would provide another level of deterrence to those contemplating illegal entry." Judd adds, "In all areas of law enforcement the most effective and humane way of enforcing laws is convincing people not to break them in the first place." He concludes, "A strategically placed barrier that saves lives and taxpayer dollars can aptly be described as a 'big beautiful wall.'"

Border Security:

CBP LAUNCHES SECURITY PROGRAM USING FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY AT O'HARE. The Chicago Tribune (7/20, Wisniewski, 1.85M) reports that starting this month, CBP introduced a new security program that uses facial recognition technology at O'Hare Airport. The article mentions that the program has already been deployed at Dulles International Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport, "with future deployments planned for more airports this summer."

CUBAN NATIONALS CONTINUE TO AMASS AT US-MEXICO BORDER. The Guardian (UK) (7/20, Agren, 3.45M) discusses the plight of Cuban nationals who have arrived at the US southern border since January 12, when then-President Obama ended the "wet-foot, dry-foot" policy. The Guardian says, "Cubans have continued to converge at the border regardless, in the hope that Obama's successor would return to a more hostile Cuba policy. But when Donald Trump recently announced a partial rollback of Obama's Cuba opening in June, he kept immigration restrictions intact." The Guardian adds, "Approximately half the Cubans tired of waiting in Nuevo Laredo, walked across the border bridge and 'surrendered' to US officials in the hope of claiming asylum. Others have requested asylum in Mexico, though most have not abandoned their hopes of entering the US."

Secret Service:

SECRET SERVICE TRAINS LAW ENFORCEMENT AT ALABAMA INSTITUTE. The New York Times (7/20, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 14.49M) reports the Secret Service "may be better known for keeping government executives safe," but it "also has a mandate to investigate and fight financial and other cybercrimes." The Times details the agency's work at the National Computer Forensics Institute near Birmingham, Alabama, where instructors teach law enforcement the methods taught to its own agents. The Times says tuition to the classes is free, and the Secret Service "throws in travel, room, board and, for police officers, tens of thousands of dollars of technology to set up their own forensics labs back home." The Times adds that the training has allowed the Secret Service to "empower[r] a network of thousands of law enforcement officers across the country capable of processing digital evidence and indebted to the agency that taught them." The Times explains that the Secret Service employs 3,300 agents, and to "amplify its effect," the agency "relies on dozens of electronic and financial crimes task forces across the country, where local and state law officers and people in academia and businesses work alongside its own agents." Deputy assistant director for investigations Robert Novy "said the task forces help ensure that cases continue to move forward regardless of protection demands," and "also said that they have begun to free the Secret Service's own staff to focus on larger-scale cyberthreats and high-dollar financial crimes."

Immigration Enforcement:

TRAVIS COUNTY BLAMES "CLERICAL ERROR" FOR RELEASING FELON. On its website, KEYE-TV Austin, TX (7/20, 34K) reports the Travis County Sheriff's Office "is now apologizing about the release of a man with a known criminal history," and has "issued a clarification about the release of a man with a known criminal history." ICE says Travis County Jail released Julio Cesar Mendoza-Caballero "in June without notifying them, after they had requested an immigration detainer." The Sheriff's Office released a clarification on Thursday afternoon that "says they were, in fact, notified by ICE about his felony criminal history – but missed the

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message due to a clerical error."

ICE "NOT APOLOGIZING" FOR CRACKDOWN. NPR (7/20, 3.51M) reports, "Under President Trump, ICE agents are told to arrest anyone in the country illegally." Dallas field office director Simona Flores said, "We're not apologizing for what we're doing...We're trying to do the right thing." Flores "said that over her nearly 30-year career as a federal immigration officer, she always has used discretion." She added, "We listen to every case by case when it's brought to our attention that might need special attention." NPR also details embedding journalists with ICE Fugitive Operations for "two days in early July."

GUATEMALAN WOMAN SEEKS SANCTUARY IN CHURCH INSTEAD OF BOARDING PLANE. The Hartford (CT) Courant (7/21, McWilliams, 390K) reports, "A woman with a deportation order sought sanctuary in a New Haven church instead of boarding a plane back to Guatemala, her lawyer said Thursday." Nury Chavarria "was slated to be deported on Thursday, but in the afternoon took refuge at Iglesia De Dios Pentecostal church in the Fair Haven section of the city." The AP (7/20) and the New Haven (CT) Register (7/20, 207K) report similarly.

ADDITIONAL IMMIGRATION JUDGES MOVED CLOSER TO MEXICAN BORDER. On its website, WNYC-FM New York (7/20, 54K) reports, "In its crackdown on illegal immigration, the Trump administration is moving an increasing number of immigration judges closer to the border with Mexico." The judge have been "sent to hear deportation cases in Louisiana, California, New Mexico and Texas, along with Elizabeth, New Jersey, where there's a detention center." WNYC-FM says around "half of New York City's 30 immigration judges have been temporarily reassigned for two-to-four weeks at a time between early April and July," which has "cause[d] cases to get delayed for months." According to the latest data obtained by WNYC, "128 of the nation's approximately 325 immigration judges have been shuffled to other locations between early April and the middle of July." EOIR "did not respond to a request for comment," but "has said it is hiring more judges."

SUPPORTERS OF DETAINED MIT JANITOR CALL FOR GOVERNOR'S HELP. The Springfield (MA) Republican (7/20, 564K) reports, "Supporters of Francisco Rodriguez, a janitor for MIT who was detained last week by federal immigration officials with ICE, rallied outside the Massachusetts State House on Thursday." The supporters "asked Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker to call for his release." Baker "said Rodriguez doesn't sound like the type of person ICE regularly seeks out." The }\htmlrtf {\field{*\fldinst{HYPERLINK "http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/07/20/daughter-detained-mitparN BORDER. {*\rted-takes-re more jus-for-governor-baker-intervene/DHDCJml"}}{\fldrslt\cf1 \htmlrtf0 {*\htmltag4 } {*\htmltag84 }\htmlrtf {DHDCJml"}}{Bst{HY GERLI {*\htmltag92 }\htmlrtf }\htmlrtf0 \htmlrtf }\htmltag92 }\f }\htmlrtf0 {*\htmltag92 } (7/20, Salinas, 1.06M) reports, \'93US Senators Elizabeth Whtren and Ed Markey have expressed support for Rodriguez, and on Thursday, at a rally sprinkled with chants in Spanish, Mellanie and union leaders called uptmlred-mitp Charlie Baker\fldrslt\cf1 \ar

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GAO-OIG IN THE NEWS

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

These articles are highlighted to keep DHS leadership, our audit liaison community, and others across the Department informed about news being reported mentioning the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and/or the various federal Offices of Inspector general (OIG). While this service focuses mainly on DHS, it does include other GAO- and OIG-related information for cross-feed purposes. DHS-related articles appear first, followed by those from other parts of government.

The articles are sourced from: **DHS News Briefing**; **Politico**; **The Hill**; **Government Executive**; **Federal Times**; and, from time-to-time, other selected publications. Please send any questions, comments, or suggestions to the Departmental GAO-OIG Liaison mailbox: **GAO-OIG.Liaison@hq.dhs.gov**.

DHS-RELATED

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Where There's A Will, Is There A Wall? Building Trump's Border Wall Won't Be Cheap

USA Today, By Ronald J. Hansen July 24, 2017

President Donald Trump's promised border wall could cost between $10 billion and $60 billion.

Or more.

Or maybe a lot less.

It's unclear how much of the border will get a wall, a fence or rely on technology and manpower.

It is clear Congress is girding for a fight over spending $1.6 billion on a project central to Trump's campaign promises.

"The idea of a wall of this magnitude has not been tried before."Barzin Mobasher, Arizona State University professor of sustainable engineering

Such is the unsettled nature of the wall. Six months into Trump's presidency, the "big, beautiful wall" he wants remains ill-defined and often seems a near-afterthought as the administration fends off investigations and struggles to find its legislative footing.

Still, the government is quietly proceeding with prototypes.

Honing in on the cost is difficult, primarily because Trump himself has offered shifting estimates and conflicting details.

This month, for the first time, he suggested that the nearly 2,000-mile border with Mexico could be secured with as little as 700 miles of wall. He has also variously suggested the wall could be 40 feet high or more. For now, the prototypes will be 18 to 30 feet high.

Engineers can design and rough out costs but critical details, such as its height, length and thickness, change the price tag by tens of billions. Then there's the location.

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"The major cost driver in this type of project is we are trying to build infrastructure in some of the remotest areas of the land," said Barzin Mobasher, a professor of sustainable engineering at Arizona State University. "The idea of a wall of this magnitude has not been tried before."

Access to electricity, fuel, labor and other materials is limited, making it more challenging and more expensive, he said.

The budget demands of future congresses, Trump's own political future and legal hurdles posed by political and environmental activists will also affect the project, said William Ibbs, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of California, Berkeley.

"Tell me all those political and social and environmental details, and I can give you some insight in what's going to happen to the wall," Ibbs said. "In all likelihood, this is going to be a long process."Estimates go up, unlike the wall

One thing is clear: Whatever its shape and length, a wall would be expensive.

In September 2015, Trump told CNN it would cost $4 billion. By February 2016, he said it would cost $8 billion.

In the first week of the Trump administration, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan put the cost at between $12 billion to $15 billion.

A month later, a Department of Homeland Security report estimated it at $22 billion. In April, Senate Democrats claimed a more likely cost is $67 billion.

Underscoring the moving price tag, comedian Stephen Colbert piled on with a $2 trillion estimate that didn't include the wallpaper he would like added to the finished product.

Old idea, new urgency

Physical barriers on the U.S.-Mexico border date back to at least 1909, when the government sought to control the spread of diseased animals.

In the early 1990s, the U.S. Border Patrol began erecting a 10-foot steel fence along 14 miles of the border near San Diego.

The Secure Fence Act of 2006 called for expanding the fence to 850 miles. That was later scaled back to "not less than 700 miles of the southwest border where fencing would be most practical and effective."

Since then, the government has built 653 miles of it along some of the flattest and most accessible terrain. In 2013, Janet Napolitano, the former Homeland Security secretary, told the Senate "the fence, to the extent it has been appropriated for, is complete."

That means the nearly 1,300 miles that remains open is more uneven, more remote and will be more expensive to wall off.

But Trump has on several occasions said his "physical wall," which he has distinguished from the fence, would not need to cover the entire open portion.

"Remember this," he told reporters who accompanied him has he flew to France this month, "it's a 2,000-mile border, but you don't need 2,000 miles of wall because you have a lot of natural barriers. You have mountains. You have some rivers that are violent and vicious. You have some areas that are so far away that you don't really have people crossing. So you don't need that. But you'll need anywhere from 700 to 900 miles."

What would it cost?

While there isn't much solid wall along the southern border currently, the extensive fencing can give some sense of the expenses taxpayers would face.

In a 2009 report, the Government Accountability Office found a wide range of costs per mile for pedestrian fencing compared to vehicle barriers. At the low end, a mile of vehicle barriers cost as little as $200,000, while the priciest mile of pedestrian fencing cost $15.1 million.

On average, pedestrian fencing cost $6.5 million per mile in 2008. Adding a second layer of pedestrian fencing added $2 million more to the cost per mile where its costs could be calculated.

"The type of fencing, topography, materials used, land acquisition costs, and labor costs, among other things" influenced the costs, auditors wrote.

When the Border Patrol's employees helped build it, the average price was 45 percent lower, in part because of savings on labor costs.

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Using those dated estimates, it would cost up to $4.6 billion for fencing — not a wall — covering an additional 700 miles.

Land was a significant expense then, auditors noted, and would likely be more today.

The Border Patrol said it didn't have to buy much private land or undertake related environmental studies for the fencing built in 2007. If it had, that would have added roughly $800,000 to the cost for every mile, according to a GAO report.

Today, some of the largest stretches of open border — and the busiest corridors for illegal immigration — are in Texas, where much of the land is privately owned.Other costs

A Border Patrol officer patrols in Ajo, Arizona. (Photo: Nick Oza/The Republic)

Other factors also will affect the price of the wall, Ibbs said.

Pouring concrete in rock carries different costs than doing so in relatively sandy soil. If the local markets are busy for contractors, the price will go up.

Free-standing walls need to withstand winds with reinforced foundations. As the above-ground wall gets higher, the below-ground foundation grows exponentially, Mobasher said.

Building a concrete wall across a desert will require a resource that's scarce on most ofthe border: water.

It's needed for the concrete mix, but also to clean the aggregate that goes into the mix, said Greg Gentsch, a Flagstaff-based civil engineer and consultant.

"On the average, if a cubic yard of concrete has 600 pounds of cement, it will have about 300 pounds of water," Gentsch said.

The project will also need tons of steel to reinforce the wall. Depending on whether the wall is free-standing, connected to observation perches or supported with back-fill, 1 to 2 percent of the volume of the structure will include steel rebar, Gentsch said.

Part of the wall would run through California and must account for seismic activity.

Because of the weather conditions in Arizona, it may be best to use pre-cast concrete panels that are essentially dropped in place, Ibbs said. Such panels are manufactured at a plant and transported to the site.

That process requires grading roads so the panels arrive intact. It also means cranes and other heavy equipment are needed to position the panels.

"Construction is a complicated business," Ibbs said. "There's a lot of things that the public knows and sees every day. But there's a lot of things that go on behind the scenes."

Another feature: solar?

In June, Trump floated the idea at least twice of incorporating solar panels into his wall. It would likely add at least $1 billion to the cost.

Trump told Republican lawmakers in a closed-door meeting that he envisioned at least a 40-foot-high wall "covered with solar panels," according to Axios.

"I'm baffled by the idea of using solar panels. ... Nobody puts solar panels on walls. They put it on the roof simply for the orientation aspect."Barzin Mobasher, Arizona State University professor of sustainable engineering

"We're thinking about building the wall as a solar wall so it creates energy and pays for itself. And this way, Mexico will have to pay much less money. And that's good right?" Trump later said during a rally in Iowa.

That idea seems to build on the one pitched in the Wall Street Journal in March by two academics who suggested the entire span could be built with solar panels for about $1 billion plus fencing and road costs.

It's unclear if Trump or the academics factored in the cost of transmission lines needed to tie the energy harnessed from the sun to a power grid, where it can be consumed. Solar plants typically are built near existing transmission lines that can carry power from multiple sources all day long, not just during daylight when solar panels make power.

Solar panels are typically angled southward to face the sun. Cladding a vertical wall with them wouldn't maximize that exposure, and would leave them facing Mexico. That could invite large-scale damage from those who hate the wall.

Putting them on the U.S.-facing wall would make them less productive.

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"I'm baffled by the idea of using solar panels. ... Nobody puts solar panels on walls. They put it on the roof simply for the orientation aspect," Mobasher said. "How are we going to collect that electricity? How are you going to convert it? How are you going to transmit that electricity?"Expect cost overruns

Would-be immigrants wade across the Rio Grande at the U.S.-Mexico border in Roma, Texas, in March 2017. U.S. Border Patrol agents intercepted the group on the Texas side. (Photo: Getty Images)

Whatever the government thinks the wall will cost, pick a higher number, experts say.

"The question is not, are there going to be overruns, but, sort of, how much?" said Charles Jacobson, the former president of the Public Works Historical Society and partner with the litigation consulting firm of Morgan Angel in Washington, D.C.

Cost overruns happened with major projects like the Erie Canal and the Hoover Dam.

"The thing you need most for a thousand miles of wall is time."Greg Gentsch, civil engineer

"There's lots of research that says public projects have more cost overruns than private projects. It happens more often and it happens more severely," Ibbs said. "And there's some people who say that the reason is because the public officials ... set prices that are very optimistic in order to get them budgeted. And then when the project comes in higher, they've been elected to the next office."

Ibbs would know: He was involved with the "Big Dig" in Boston, a massive transportation project that was supposed to cost $2 billion and wound up at $12 billion 15 years later.

Part of the problem there, he said, involved a failure to account for inflation on a project that took so long or for the suddenly hot Boston construction market that drove up prices. That downtown tunnel originally didn't include a park that was later added or factor in some engineering challenges of going under Boston Harbor that only became clear after work was underway.

In 2008, California voters passed a ballot measure approving high-speed rail between Los Angeles and San Francisco. That work is not expected to be completed until 2029, and its projected costs have already grown more than 50 percent.

Jacobson said the timetable for building a wall will depend on the urgency in Washington.

During World War II, oil pipelines were built from the Midwest to the East Coast in two years, he said. The Empire State Building was built in one year. Building a wall can be expedited, but that could lead to unexpected expenses, he added.

Gentsch said fast-tracking the wall may mostly be wishful thinking.

"The thing you need most for a thousand miles of wall," he said, "is time."

Staff Writer Ryan Randazzo contributed to this report.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

The Performance Revolution Government Needs

Government Executive, By Howard Risher July 24, 2017

In a recent column, Terry Gerton, President of the National Academy of Public Administration, noted that government will not be able to solve many problems until the civil service system is reformed. NAPA's new white paper, "No Time to Wait: Building a Public Service for the 21st Century," spells out the need clearly.

I have made the same argument many times in this publication, although my background is very different from that of Gerton's or the report's authors. I have never worked in government. The qualification that's relevant here is the realization that people who look forward to going to work in the morning are lucky. I've known too many government employees who are frustrated and angry about their experience at work.

But several comments added at the end of the column raise an important issue. Bmj1's comment is one of several on point: "You've stated this over and over, as have many others, but what is the driving need for reform? What is the problem and what are we trying to fix? . . . I've yet to see an actual problem defined and a solution proposed . . . To quote a line: 'Let's work the problem people. Let's not make things worse by guessing.'"

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I know the quote. It's from the movie Apollo 13. When I teach undergrads I ask students to write a paper on the movie. It's one of the best depictions of a high performance organization. The film ignores a key issue -- the people portrayed are government employees.

In answer to bmj1's questions, the Government Accountability Office has had human capital management on its high risk since 2001. Their assessments provide solid justification for reform. They also cite the problem of skill gaps in 15 areas. The need for talented cybersecurity specialists is critical, for example.

One of the problems that could be addressed immediately is the inevitable aging and retirement of federal workers. The emerging field of HR analytics could shed light on voluntary resignation trends, especially among recent hires. Agencies will also need to plan and reorganize following the force reductions. (If anything, the time required to rewrite all the job descriptions and reclassify the jobs should prompt support for scrapping the classification system.) Staying ahead of talent loss will require reform.

Agencies should also evaluate the number and quality of applicants. Agencies may not be hiring today but the skill gaps, especially in the STEM occupations, are a barrier to improved results. When the brand of government is unattractive to top talent, it should be a reason for reform. Further, I doubt if anyone disagrees with the need to reform the hiring process. Qualified candidates cannot be expected to wait weeks and months for a job offer.

Pay of course is highly contentious. The General Schedule program model is a century old, staggeringly bureaucratic and unresponsive to agency staffing needs. It impedes the reorganization of government. What's more, few employees believe they are fairly paid. The annual "pay gap analysis" has no credibility. Federal personnel management is based on practices replaced long ago in other sectors. Repeated studies, starting with the Volcker Commission in 1989, have argued the GS system needs to be replaced. Reform is long overdue.

There is a related and completely understandable concern that federal benefits will be reduced. That seems to be inevitable. Again, defining the relevant labor market is a key issue. The critics are correct -- federal benefits are better than those provided by the average employer. It's been reported that around half of American households have no retirement accounts, so federal retirement benefits are an easy political target. But agencies are not competing for talent with the average employer (which has less than 20 employees). It's far more relevant to compare federal benefits with the practices of Beltway contractors.

One area that has had little attention but is the heart of meaningful reform is the day to day management of performance. I doubt if anyone believes the badly inflated year-end performance ratings are credible. This is perhaps the most complex of all the human capital problems. It's not a human resource problem -- it's a management problem. The idea a couple of years ago that HR meeting with the unions could solve it was not the solution. It will require leadership and time to develop the skills needed by managers. It's the key to transitioning successfully to pay for performance. It's necessary for dealing with poor performers.

Surprisingly perhaps neither Gerton's column or the NAPA report argues for specific reform changes. The current human capital problems are discussed, starting with database breaches at the Office of Personnel Management and the Internal Revenue Service. Gerton's background in the military and working with veterans issues at the Labor Department makes her sensitive to the staffing problems in VA medical centers. The civil service system is a factor in a long list of problems.

The report makes a strong argument for needed flexibility and for increased manager accountability. I doubt if any taxpayer would disagree. It also argued for the creation of a "federated" human capital system that would give agencies more control and flexibility. As the report states, "government's work and missions are just too varied" for a uniform system. My experience managing pay and performance in a large corporate conglomerate convinces me that is essential.

To begin reform, I suggest starting with the state of Tennessee's strategy. As discussed in my recent column, "Agencies Could Learn a Lot From Tennessee's Shift to Pay for Performance," the state asked people at all levels, from the governor's office to front-line employees, for ideas on how to improve government operations. A common thread was the state's antiquated workforce management practices. As evidence of how reform has impacted the state, the governor was re-elected in 2014 with one of the largest margins in state history.

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John Kamensky's recent column, "10 Factors for Successfully Implementing Large Initiatives," outlines a strategy that would be useful here. He discussed a comparatively simple project -- taking a website of financial data live -- but the approach represents a framework for managing reform.

Human capital and workforce management practices are undergoing a revolution in other sectors. The impetus for those initiatives is the desire for improved performance. Companies have recognized the value and the untapped capabilities in their workforce. Government needs a similar revolution.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Immigration Agency Wants to Blend Data Science, Agile and Security

Nextgov, By Mohana Ravindranath July 24, 2017

The Homeland Security Department is looking beyond the buzzy "DevOps" management approach—blending the software development and the operations staff to encourage closer collaboration—to "DevSecOps," which throws security teams into that mix. A more conventional approach might keep these groups separate until shortly before the product launch.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is investigating DevSecOps services, as well as agile development, a methodology that breaks large projects into smaller chunks that are tested every few weeks. The department's request for information asks vendors to explain how they apply DevSecOps to fields like big data, analytics and machine learning, including neural networks and artificial intelligence.

The request noted vendors would eventually be tasked with applying that technology and management approach to systems in cloud environments, including those provided by Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud. In the future, new DevSecOps-themed contracts or contracting vehicles could help other parts of DHS use this approach, the RFI said.

In the RFI, vendors are asked to describe the complexity and number of IT projects they've worked on, their experience with data science, analytics and agile processes, and their experience with various programming languages, among other skills.

USCIS has tried newer project management methodologies before. In 2012, the agency formally adopted the agile methodology to advance its Transformation Program, which involved an electronic application tracking system, according to the Government Accountability Office. The myUSCIS system, an online portal for immigration services, also tapped vendors skilled in agile development.

But the transition hasn't been seamless. A 2016 GAO report dinged USCIS for straying from "the underlying practices and principles" of agile development—for example, failing to require continuous testing—when creating its Electronic Immigration System.

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NON-DHS-RELATED

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Appointee Watch: A New Army Secretary, Press Office Turmoil and Another Round of Ambassadors

Government Executive, By Erich Wagner July 24, 2017

Among those named to agency posts in recent days are:

Agriculture: Samuel Clovis, undersecretary for research, education and economics. Clovis is the senior White House adviser to the Agriculture Department. He was a policy adviser during the Trump presidential campaign, and he served for more than 25 years in the Air Force, where he was inspector general of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Space Command and was a command pilot.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Bill To Create New Cyber Agency At DHS To Be Introduced This Week

Federal News Radio (DC), By Eric White July 24, 2017

A new report says it's getting easier for science and technology companies to work with the Defense Department. The Government Accountability Office said DoD is addressing challenges non-traditional companies face when doing business with it. One of the measures that helped is the establishment of the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental. (Government Accountability Office)

One Defense Department agency is fooled into selling surplus military gear to unqualified people. Investigators posing as buyers from a fictitious federal agency obtained 100 controlled items from the Defense Logistics Agency. DLA's Law Enforcement Support Office is supposed to ensure only qualified law enforcement get their hands on the used gear. Auditors from the Government Accountability Office created a fake agency, complete with website. DLA sold it $1 million worth of guns and other items. (Government Accountability Office)

Mattis Blasts Pentagon For Wasteful Spending

Associated Press, By Robert Burns, AP National Security Writer July 24, 2017

WASHINGTON (AP) – Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is scolding the Pentagon's unwieldy bureaucracy for wasteful spending.

In a memo obtained by The Associated Press, Mattis pointed to a recent report by the U.S. special inspector general for Afghanistan. The report said the Pentagon had wasted tens of millions of dollars by buying private-label uniforms of questionable use for the Afghan military over a 10-year period.

The uniform episode is to be a focus of a House Armed Services Committee hearing Tuesday.

In a memo last Friday, Mattis said the wasteful spending on uniforms is an example of "cavalier or casually acquiescent decisions." He added that such decisions undermine the mission in Afghanistan and undercut public trust.

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Purchase Of Tropical Uniforms For Afghanistan Draws Mattis's Rebuke

New York Times, By Helene Cooper July 24, 2017

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has sharply criticized Pentagon officials for spending up to $28 million over budget to help the Afghan National Army buy camouflage uniforms because of the sartorial tastes of a single Afghan official.

Mr. Mattis's harshly worded memo to the Pentagon's acquisitions department, released on Monday, followed a report last month by the Special Inspector general for Afghanistan Reconstruction. It concluded that the Pentagon needlessly spent millions to license a proprietary camouflage pattern that replicates lush forests.

While such a design might work in the tropics, most of Afghanistan's landscape is desert.

The Defense Department already owned dozens of desert camouflage patterns it could have used for free, said the report by the United States' government watchdog in Afghanistan. It noted that the former Afghan minister of defense liked the forest camouflage.

But the pattern potentially cost the Pentagon an additional $28 million beyond what was planned between 2008 and 2017, defense officials acknowledged.

"Buying uniforms for our Afghan partners, and doing so in a way that may have wasted tens of millions of taxpayer dollars over a 10-year period, must not be seen as inconsequential in the grand scheme of the department's responsibilities and budget," Mr. Mattis said in his memo.

He said he was bothered not only because the report exposed waste, but also " that it serves as an example of a complacent mode of thinking."

"The report is an indication of a frame of mind — an attitude that can affect any of us at the Pentagon or across the Department of Defense — showing how those of us entrusted with supporting and equipping troops on the battlefield, if we let down our guard, can lose focus on ensuring their safety and lethality against the enemy," Mr. Mattis wrote.

His memo was released before a House Armed Services Committee hearing scheduled for Tuesday, where the uniform issue was expected to be discussed.

In 2007, Abdul Rahim Wardak, who was then serving as Afghanistan's minister of defense, discovered the camouflage pattern while browsing uniform styles online, the report said. The forest pattern he chose was created and owned by HyperStealth Biotechnology Corporation, a Canadian company that has designed camouflage for the militaries of Jordan, Chile and the United Arab Emirates. The new uniforms also included expensive details, like replacing buttons with zippers.

"Cavalier or casually acquiescent decisions to spend taxpayer dollars in an ineffective and wasteful manner are not to recur," Mr. Mattis wrote.

Defense Secretary Mattis Rips Pentagon For Wasting Money On Afghan Army Uniforms

USA Today, By Tom Vanden Brook July 24, 2017

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis blasted the Pentagon bureaucracy for "cavalier" spending in light of a recent report that showed as much as $28 million had been wasted in buying uniforms for the Afghan army, according to a memo obtained by USA TODAY.

The report found that U.S. military officials have purchased the forest-camouflage uniforms since 2007 without testing their effectiveness, or accounting for the fact that just 2% of Afghanistan is covered by woods. The Special Inspector general for Afghanistan Reconstruction also found that special tailoring boosted the cost of the uniforms, as did using a licensed camouflage pattern when free versions were at hand. The report will be the focus of a hearing by a panel of House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday.

"Cavalier or casually acquiescent decisions to spend taxpayer dollars in an ineffective and wasteful manner are not to recur," Mattis wrote.

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Mattis' letter is unusual in that the military regularly pushes back at reports by the special inspector general's office, which is led by John Sopko. It has disputed his finding, for example, that millions were wasted building a gas station in Afghanistan.

This time Mattis took the hit on the uniforms, and made sure those in charge of purchasing decisions and policy knew about it. He addressed his memo to the under secretaries for acquisition, policy and comptroller.

"Buying uniforms for our Afghan partners, and doing so in a way that may have wasted tens of millions of taxpayer dollars over a ten-year period, must not be seen as inconsequential in the grand scheme of the Department's responsibilities and budget."Possible savings up to $71 million

Sopko's office determined that the Pentagon could save as much as $71 million over the next 10 years by switching to a new camouflage scheme. So far, the Pentagon has spent $93 million to buy 1.3 million uniforms in the forest camouflage pattern for the Afghan army.

Mattis, in his memo, returned to a theme that has guided his decision making as Defense secretary, notably the readiness of U.S and allied forces to fight the enemy. If decisions do not enhance what Mattis refers to the "lethality," he has little time for them.

"The report is an indication of a frame of mind — an attitude that can affect any of us at the Pentagon or across the Department of Defense — showing how those entrusted with supporting and equipping troops on the battlefield, if we let down our guard, can lose focus on ensuring their safety and lethality against the enemy."

The inspector general's report drew rebukes from senior senators, including Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., and Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa. McCaskill demanded answers from the Pentagon on the uniform.

Mattis concluded his memo by warning his subordinates to cut waste.

"Rather than minimize this report or excuse wasteful decisions, I expect all (Department of Defense) organizations to use this error as a catalyst to bring to light wasteful practices – and take aggressive steps to end waste in our Department," Mattis wrote. "I'm counting on all hands to take effective action."

Mattis rips Pentagon officials for $28M wasted on Afghanistan camouflage

The Hill, By Ellen Mitchell July 24, 2017

Defense Secretary James Mattis ripped Pentagon officials for their "cavalier" spending following a recent report that the Defense Department spent $28 million on camouflage uniforms for Afghan soldiers that don't match up with the country's terrain.

In a July 21 memo released to reporters on Monday, Mattis addressed a June Special Inspector general for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) report. The document found that DOD began buying the forest-patterned uniforms in 2007, after a former Afghan defense minister saw them online and liked them.

The uniforms were purchased without testing to be used in a country that's just 2 percent woodland.

"Buying uniforms for our Afghan partners, and doing so in a way that may have wasted tens of millions of taxpayer dollars over a 10-year period, must not be seen as inconsequential in the grand scheme of the Department's responsibilities and budget," Mattis wrote in the memo that was addressed to the undersecretaries for policy, comptroller and acquisition, technology and logistics.

"Cavalier or casually acquiescent decisions to spend taxpayer dollars in an ineffective and wasteful manner are not to recur," Mattis continued in the memo.

Mattis said a key finding of the SIGAR report was that the Pentagon personnel can reach a "complacent mode of thinking" if not careful.

"The report is an indication of a frame of mind — an attitude that can affect any of us at the Pentagon or across the Department of Defense — showing how those of us entrusted with supporting and equipping troops on the battlefield, if we let down our guard, can lose focus on ensuring their safety and lethality against the enemy," he writes.

The SIGAR report also drew lawmakers' attention.

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Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) sent a letter to the Pentagon last week, demanding answers from DOD by August.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), meanwhile, called the findings "embarrassing and an affront to U.S. taxpayers."

A House Armed Services panel will address the report on Tuesday, during a hearing with Inspector general John Sopko.

Mattis concluded that the report should be used as a motivator to prevent future wasteful spending.

"Rather than minimize this report or excuse wasteful decisions, I expect all DoD organizations to use this error as a catalyst to bring to light wasteful practices — and to take aggressive steps to end waste in our Department," Mattis writes.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Alleged Retaliation Against Senior Executives Prompts Bipartisan Concern

Government Executive, By Eric Katz July 24, 2017

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have expressed concern about the Interior Department's alleged retaliation against an employee who spoke out on the dangers of climate change, warning the Trump administration against reassignments as a means to silence civil servants.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., the ranking member on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said she plans to ask for an investigation into the claims career Senior Executive Service employee Joel Clement put forward in a *Washington Post* op-ed last week. Clement said he was involuntarily reassigned to an accounting position after serving as Interior's director of the Office of Policy Analysis after sounding the alarm on the risks climate change posed to Alaska Native populations. The supervisor filed a complaint and disclosure with the Office of Special Counsel.

She went on to question Interior and Energy department nominees during a confirmation hearing last week on how they would protect the SES and guard against retaliatory or arbitrary reassignments just because executives "believe in science."

"We need to make sure those individuals who have had the experience, who are involved in science, are going to continue to fulfill those responsibilities," Cantwell said.

She added reorganizations should not provide agencies with an excuse to replace those with scientific experience with political appointees without those qualifications. "I'm concerned enough that I intend to ask the inspector general to look into it," Cantwell said.

The senator was joined by seven of her Democratic colleagues on Monday in sending a letter to the IG calling the allegations "extremely troubling" and formally requesting the investigation.

"We believe that any reassignment of highly trained, highly competent senior executives within the department from the positions in which they may best use their training and competence to accomplish the department's mission and best serve the public interest to sinecures where their talents are wasted would constitute a serious act of mismanagement, a gross waste of public funds, and an abuse of authority," the senators wrote.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who co-chairs the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus, told *Government Executive* all employees feeling mistreated have the right to "pursue all options" and that those protections "exist to promote good government."

"Executive branch agencies need to make sure they're getting the most value for taxpayers," Grassley said. "Moving employees to positions where they don't contribute isn't good government." The senator helped write the 2012 Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, which clarified that employees disclosing evidence of censorship of scientific or technical information were protected under the law.

Just after Clement posted his op-ed, the Union of Concerned Scientists released a report accusing the Trump administration of "sidelining science" on a systemic, governmentwide basis. Michael Halpern, deputy director of UCS' Center for Science and Democracy, said Clement's allegations were consistent with the findings of his report.

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"They're paralyzing the department," Halpern said of the Trump administration. "It's about scrubbing away any independent analysis that could be inconvenient to the policies they want to put forward."

He added that every presidential administration tends to champion the data that is consistent with its policy positions, but under Trump it was happening "on steroids."

"They're being very creative about it," Halpern said. "It's everything from reassigning employees to render them ineffective to suspending advisory committees."

Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., who holds a degree in mechanical engineering and served an AmeriCorps stint at the Fish and Wildlife Service, said at the confirmation hearing he was also concerned.

"What worries me the most about the current administration is the disdain and distrust that has been directed at science data and scientists," Heinrich said.

In an interview with *Government Executive* last week, Clement said his reassignment had a "profound chilling effect" on his staff.

"They were really freaked out after my reassignment," Clement said. Of the department writ large, he added, "Walking into that place is like walking into a morgue. People are looking over their shoulders wondering if they're next."

Bill Valdez, president of the Senior Executives Association, said Interior appeared to be using its "lawful authority" in reassigning Clement, but he applauded Congress for its oversight "to ensure that these personnel actions are proper and in the best interests of taxpayers."

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bill To Create New Cyber Agency At DHS To Be Introduced This Week

Federal News Radio (DC), By Eric White July 24, 2017

The State Department's inspector general said it has no idea how much time or money it takes to process security clearances because of errors in previous reports. State conducts security clearance investigations for its own employees. The department may have lost millions in dollars in reimbursements because it failed to collect payments for investigation work that happened overseas for other agencies. (Department of State Office of Inspector general)

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS HOLDS A HEARING ON BORDER SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

April 05, 2017

SPEAKERS:

SEN. RON JOHNSON, R-WIS
CHAIRMAN
SEN. JOHN MCCAIN, R-ARIZ.
SEN. ROB PORTMAN, R-OHIO
SEN. RAND PAUL, R-KY.
SEN. JAMES LANKFORD, R-OKLA.
SEN. MICHAEL B. ENZI, R-WYO.
SEN. JOHN HOEVEN, R-N.D.
SEN. STEVE DAINES, R-MONT.
.

SEN. CLAIRE MCCASKILL, D-MO.,
RANKING MEMBER
SEN. THOMAS R. CARPER, D-DEL.
SEN. JON TESTER, D-MONT.
SEN. HEIDI HEITKAMP, D-N.D.
SEN. GARY PETERS, D-MICH.
SEN. MAGGIE HASSAN, D-N.H.
SEN. KAMALA HARRIS, D-CALIF.

WITNESS:

- JOHN KELLY, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JOHNSON: This hearing will come to order. I'd like to welcome the secretary of homeland security, General Kelly. We appreciate you coming and taking time and your thoughtful testimony, and we're looking forward to oral testimony and your answers to what should be a number of pretty interesting questions. Members of this committee, this should come as no surprise, the security of our borders been a top priority of -- of this committee.

In November 2015 after about 13 years and three roundtables, we did publish a report, "The State of America's Border Security" -- which by the way, we've got a bunch of copies so any -- any new members or old members who didn't get a copy, I'd -- I'd be happy to give you one. We've learned an awful lot and I would ask that my opening statement be entered into the record. I ask consent for that.

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MCCASKILL: Without objection.

JOHNSON: Which I'll take silence as a consent, thanks. But what I would like to do is read some of the findings out of that opening statement as well as just some of the things we've learned. Just kind of bullet points.

First and foremost what we've learned during our -- this is going to be our 23rd hearing on various aspects of border security. First finding, our borders are not secure. Number two -- and we've mentioned this in yesterday's hearing -- America's sensational (ph) demand for drugs is one root cause, perhaps the root cause for bringing the (ph) achievement of a secure border. In order to secure our borders -- we heard this yesterday in -- in testimony on -- on fencing walls -- agents need full situation awareness, which includes the ability to see on the other side of the border. This can be achieved with appropriate fencing and technology.

We had a hearing on November of last year. We had the former heads of border patrol and deputy border patrol, and they said that fencing works and we need more of it. We found out the last week in a hearing from the front lines, hiring is challenge and personal issues must be addressed, we're working with the secretary and his -- his deputy to try and address that -- really based off Senator Heitkamp's comments, in (ph) one hearing where she said, this is insane, this is crazy, and there are some insane and crazy policies which we want to work with you to get those addressed and fixed right away so you can actually staff up to provide the manpower element of securing our border. Points of entry must not be forgotten. The majority of drugs in our country are through our points of entry and that's something I'd like to talk about. One difficult hearing to have was victims of an unsecured border, victims of not enforcing our -- our immigration laws.

So the truth is tragedies have occurs as a result of our unsecure borders; tragedies that could've been prevented. Going down another list, not on my opening statement, drug cartels and coyotes use minors to avoid prosecution. Unaccompanied children have been traffic into sex trade and involuntary servitude. Drug cartels are as, if not more, brutal and depraved then ISIS. Aerostats, you know good technology but as we found out about on our -- one of our trip down the border, they're not real good in wind, and so in certain areas they can only operate about 40 percent of the time. We had an incredibly interesting hearing and this is something I'm a big supporter of, the quadruple or quintuple use of dogs because no technology can beat the nose of a dog.

Brooks County, one of our trip, we found out that the 435 deaths of people who -- who have cross country illegally occurred just in the last five years. It's a very dangerous journey, we treat -- need to try to disincentivize people from -- from making that dangerous journey. Drug use is not a victimless crime. It has given rise drug cartels. Those drug cartels traffic little girls; and we were down in Guatemala, we went one of those shelters. I remember Senator Heitkamp, Senator Carper, Senator Peters,

I think the average age is 14 so it's not a victimless crime. I think we all realize that but unfortunately we need to understand the responsibility we bear because of our insatiable demand for drugs so that's just a list, I don't want to keep droning on here but we've learned an awful lot in 22 hearings, I think we're going to learn a lot more today and as Senator McCaskill said I

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think in yesterday's hearing, I don't think there's one United States senator who doesn't believe we need a secure border.

So let's start there with that area of agreement. We share that goal, we want to secure our border, we want to keep the folks that we represent in our states, we want to keep them safe and secure. Now we got to figure out the details. And so again, I want to welcome General Kelly and I'll also turn it over to Senator McCaskill.

MCCASKILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Kelly, thank you so much for being here today. We are cognizant of the demands on your time and part of our goal, and the chairman and I agree on this, is trying to be careful about what we ask for and how much we ask for but we've got to ask for stuff because our job is oversight. But we're aware that you're being pulled a lot of different ways.

That's why we look forward to you getting a full team in place so we can begin to have some of the people in charge in your operation come and answer some of these difficult policy and oversight questions. You and I have worked together on the armed services committee, I have -- I'm very -- I'm a fan of how you have served as a Marine and a general and no one has -- can question the sacrifices you made for our nation.

Ever since your confirmation, I have considered you a voice of reason within the administration. You have displayed throughout your career a willingness to speak truth to power, to say "no" rather than nodding, and have made your decisions based on the facts not political expediency. Those characteristics are needed now more than ever. I am counting on you to speak truth to this administration and to the president but I'm also asking you to speak to us and the American people.

Even though it may not seem like it, we are now three months into the new administration. I know that you want time to settle in and you need help to do your job. We're pleased that we confirmed Elaine Duke yesterday. I think she will be a terrific addition to your department. And by the way, I secured her vote tally, the original. I was going to bring it this morning and I forgot but I'll make sure I get that to her so she can have it to frame for her office.

We have two executive orders that ban travel from Muslim-majority nations. The first was implemented without notice and caused chaos at our nation's airports. Both have come under immediate constitutional scrutiny by the courts. The Department has overhauled its interior enforcement in the words of the White House to, quote, "take the shackles off" immigration and customs enforcement and the border patrol.

You have ordered the department to, quote, "immediately begin planning design, construction, and maintenance of a wall along the border." Even though Missouri isn't on the border, my state is directly affected by it. The drugs that get through the Mexican border have a huge impact on the opioid crisis that is gripping my state and the entire nation.

It is causing death and destruction to families all over the United States. I know you share my concern about drugs coming over the border but I am deeply concerned that all of the rhetoric

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and all of the budget requests have focused on the border and not the ports of entry, that there is no plan to increase resources at the ports of entry which we know, along with the mail, is the primary place that drugs are coming into our country.

I certainly hope that we have a chance to address that today. Away from the border, I'm concerned about the Secret Service and the unprecedented challenge of protecting the president and his family at numerous locations; the White House, Trump Tower, and Mar-a-Lago as well as the international travel by the president's sons.

In the meantime, the Secret Service is reviewing incidents that have threatened the physical security of the White House including a case in March where a fence-jumper was able to elude security and roam the grounds for 15 minutes. I'm deeply concerned that the Secret Service is being stretched to its breaking point. And just yesterday, I read news reports that the extreme vetting procedures that the president has ordered could force visa applicants from places like Australia and Japan and the United Kingdom to disclose not only all the information on their mobile phones, social media passwords, financial Records even to answer questions about their beliefs.

I've got to tell you, if my family was traveling United Kingdom and they told me that we would have to answer questions about my beliefs in the country, we would not go. And I have a hard time imagining countries would see us as their friends. I think this has a profound impact on our standing in the world, a profound impact on the nature of our alliances around the world, and a profound impact on our national security.

And I will ask questions about that today I indicated to you in our conversation yesterday because I think we are doing things that in no way as a former prosecutor trips up the bad guys. That changes our image forever in the eyes of the world; permanent and irrefutable harm occurring. Secretary Kelly, we have been trying to ask questions about policies and problems like these to your department and there have been times it's been very difficult to get answers.

willing to do a reset and check that off as you not having all hands on deck, but going forward, I hope that together, the chairman and I can work to make sure that we have witnesses from the Department of Homeland Security answer some of the questions that need to be answered. And frankly, I think it works for the benefit of your department, because if you're not here explaining, then assumptions can be made that sometimes are unfair. So going forward I hope that we have a new beginning as it relates to not only getting questions answered, but also having witnesses at hearings.

I'm glad you're here today, there's a lot of important issues before us, and I've got a lot of questions. I hope we can count on you and that your department be willing to answer them going forward. Thank you very much.

JOHNSON: Senator McCaskill, would point out General Kelly has already made himself available for a security briefing and now he's here already in early April. So I certainly appreciate his willingness to -- to testify. Secretary -- General Kelly, we do have a tradition in this committee to swear in witnesses, so if you'll please rise your right-hand. Do you swear the

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testimony you will give before this committee will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you, God? Please be seated.

Secretary John F. Kelly, General Kelly was confirmed to be the 5th secretary of Homeland Security on January 20, 2017. He previously served as a United States Marine Corps general and commander of the United States Southern Command. Less than a year after retiring from the Marine Corps, Secretary Kelly once again answered the call to serve nation and the American people by leading the department homeland security. General, we thank you for your service past, present and future, and look forward to your testimony.

KELLY: Thank you, Chairman and certainly Ranking Member McCaskill, all of the members of the committee. It's really an honor to be here. I will make myself available any time by phone, by drop- in. just recently I met with -- just yesterday with the entire Hispanic Caucus on the House side. We prided that with the entire Democratic caucus on the House side. I met with the Democratic caucus on this side last week, and I think I'm scheduled to speak with the Republicans. So anytime, anyplace, happy to do it, just a little notice.

Since I've respectfully taken on this assignment nearly three months ago, I have learned two very important lessons vis-a-vis the Department of Homeland Security and the defense of the homeland. The first is that the men and women of my department are incredibly talented and devoted public servants who serve the nation in very special ways.

In particular of those uphold the laws this institution, the Congress, passes by way the democratic process. It goes without saying the United States Coast Guard, supremely effective in their lane. One of the five military services of our country, they just happen to be lucky enough to be in the Department of Homeland Security.

Then there is the incredibly dedicated Immigration Customs Enforcement -- the ICE agents -- who have taken on the task of enforcing again, the laws you, have passed, and they do that in the interior of our country. They do it humanely, professionally, and always according to the law. The ICE team also includes the amazingly effective investigators of Homeland Security Investigations, HSI, who are second to none in their investigative effectiveness.

Then there are the professionals of the Customs and Border Protection, the CBP, who are among many other functions are the first and -- and last line of defense, depending how you look at it, doing the essential and often dangerous work of defending the borders. They're out there day and night, 24/7 suffering the heat of an Arizona summer or the deadly cold of a Montana winter. Third are another group, the Secret Service as you mentioned, Senator McCaskill. I want to highlight them, both the agents as well as the uniformed force.

They routinely work and are overworked to protect not only U.S. government officials but foreign dignitaries as well. They're amazing public servants dedicated to taking a bullet and giving their life for people that they don't even know. Then there's the TSA who ensure the security of, among other things, the traveling public, aviation- traveling public.

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TSA enjoys little credit as the work they've been ordered to do and complete by the laws of this nation bring them in direct contact with a public that has little tolerance for minor inconveniences. Again, all of this required by the law. This same public forgets that the alternative to what we -- the TSA does at our airports is possibly dying in a fireball falling from 30,000 feet.

They're heroes, they do their work effectively, and they work very, very hard at improving their performance. The second lesson I've come to realize is that what homeland security means -- we must no longer think about the defense of the nation in terms of defense and nondefense initiatives and funding. In the world in which we live and the relentless and accumulating threats directed against our nation and our way of life, we must adjust our thinking to think about security and non-security which requires an increased melding of the thinking of the departments of defense and homeland security.

Secretary Mattis and his superb team fight the away game. They do it effectively every day. The quality of the equally superb men and women of homeland security that I'm in charge of fight the home game. The defense of the homeland starts with allies and partners willing to fight the fight in places like Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan while standing ready in Europe, Asia, and South Asia.

Closer to home and winning the home game is all about increasing the partnership with willing and reliable friends like Colombia, Mexico, Canada, indeed, all of the nations of this hemisphere and around the globe. Securing a nation's border is the primary responsibility of any sovereign nation. To those of us who serve the nation as part of DHS, this is nonnegotiable and sacred.

Yet for a decade, the federal government in spite of passing one law after another to do just that has not lived up to its promise to the American people. President Trump in the early days of his administration issued executive orders and focused interest on this very issue and tasked me to accomplish it. Various executive orders have been put out there, some of them effectively, some of them not so effectively.

But all of them worth adhering to once the courts finish with their rulings. But what's happened in the last 90 days or so? We've seen an absolutely amazing drop in the number of migrants coming out of Central America that are taking that terribly dangerous route from Central America into the United States. In particular, we've seen a dramatic reduction in the number of families and the number of children that are in that pipeline.

It won't last -- it won't last unless we do something again to secure the border; the wall and our physical barrier, something to secure our border. You all know that we're looking at that. In fact I think the proposals closed out yesterday, what it'll look like, how tall it will be, how thick it will be, what color it will be, is yet to be determined. All we know is that physical barriers do work if they're put in the right places.

And of course I've already posed (ph) the men and women that work the border, CBP, they know exactly where they want wall and they know exactly how long the wall should be in their sector. They're also quick to point out that if they can't have a wall from sea to shining sea that at least

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give them the wall -- the physical barrier, the technology that will do the job for them in the locations where they've identified to me, and we'll do that.

Before I conclude, I'd like to highlight the committee and the American people total (ph) relentless threat that thankfully we have stayed probably two or three steps ahead of over the years. I thought of those would do us harm; primarily operating out of the Middle East, and they are unyielding in their attempt to destroy commercial passenger aircraft in flight. In response to this thread, DHS personnel primarily from TSA and CBP are deployed in near thousands overseas working with airports, air carriers and intelligence and law enforcement partners to deny the terrorists attempt to kill innocent in the largest numbers possible to make some sick statement.

As they say we, the CIA, NSA, FBI, DNI, DOD, DOI, DOJ, DOT, and DHS and all of our international partners have been successful thus far. I recently made several decisions that added additional baggage protocols at a number of foreign airports to fly -- fly flights directly to the United States. This decision was not -- I repeat, not about the Muslim religion, anyone's skin color or ethnicity, but to impact the bottom line of foreign air carriers to the benefit of U.S. air carriers.

My decisions were based entirely on saving lives and protecting the homeland. If we cannot get our arms around the current threat, you can expect additional protocol adjustments in the very near future. I'll end by saying me thank you so very much for the support you gave Elaine Duke. The fact that she is now confirmed -- and with any kind of luck, I'll return to my building after this meeting -- or after this committee swear her in and put a very, very good heavy pat on her back, fill it up with a lot of rocks and make the Department of Homeland Security better than it already is. So with that Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, I will standby for questions.

JOHNSON: She ought to be look forward to that.

(LAUGHTER)

General Kelly, let me start. You talked about the -- the study on the board -- boarder barriers. Can you just tell me the -- a little more detailed the status of that, as well as any surprises that you've -- in terms of initial results of that?

KELLY: Sir, we know that a physical barrier works. It's -- the -- the parts of the border that have physical barrier now, roughly 650 miles built some years ago. In those sectors, it works. There are other places along the border -- and again that the professionals in the -- in the CBP, if you walk the terrain (ph), and I know some of you have, will tell you, you know boss, if you can give me 27 more miles here, 16 more miles here, I don't really care about the other 140 miles I'm responsible for, but I need something that works, and to deflect the flow of people, primarily bad actors, people in -- not all of whom are bad actors -- people who are coming United States for various reasons, to deflect them away from -- primarily deflect away from the cities, the idea with the coyotes in the traffickers to get them as close to a city crossovers -- as close to a city as possible, get them into the city where they disappear.

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So if you can deflect them away from the city, then it's easier to pick them up and return them, whether they're Mexican or whatever. It's actually safer in many ways. Last year I think is somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,500 near-death individuals were saved by CBP primarily out in the -- out in the desert, and unfortunately unknown specific numbers, but some several hundred lost their lives in this attempt to get across the border and that's on our border.

It's no telling how many in addition to the -- to the rapes and the assaults and the abuse that they take in the network flowing up through Mexico. Not done by the Mexicans but by the Coyotes, the traffickers. There's no way to tell how many of those people lose their lives. But the point is, very, very dangerous trip. The barriers work, technology also works but all of it doesn't work at all unless you have men and women who are willing to patrol the border, develop relationships which they do with their Mexican counterparts directly across the border.

But that's where we are right now. There's no way I can give the committee an estimate of how much this will cost. I mean, I don't know what it will be made of, I don't know how high it will be, I don't know if it's going to have solar panels on each side and what the one side's going to look like and how it's going to be painted, have no idea. So I can't give you any type of an estimate.

I will say this, that it's unlikely that we will build a wall or physical barrier from sea to shining sea but it is very likely, I'm committed to putting it where the men and women say we should put it.

JOHNSON: In your written testimony, you -- the quote is, you're going to implement a full complement of solutions to meet border security requirements and that's technology, that's manpower, that's going to be physical barriers. But my assumption is you're going to target kind of a step by step basis and put walls and fencing in top priority areas where your border agents are telling you, correct?

KELLY: You're exactly right, Senator.

JOHNSON: We had a hearing last week from the front lines with the heads of the unions from Border Patrol and OFO and ICE. There were some real problems. The problem -- the use of polygraphs, just way too high of rejection rates. Pay parity, I mean Border Patrol saying once you go try and hire 10,000 ICE agents, they're just going to teal them from border patrol because of the lack of parity.

Just work schedules. From OFO talking about how agents are working multiple days in a row 16 hour shifts. So can you just kind of address what you're finding out? We're going to try and do a very cooperative process with you, with the White House, bipartisan -- nonpartisan basis really and try and give -- produce the oversight same time you're enacting the solutions.

But can you just kind of address those personnel issues?

KELLY: Yes sir. I mean this is going to be kind of a cinder block sized rock in Secretary Duke's pack. One of the things I will turn -- one of the things my good friend Jay Johnson started long

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before I obviously took this job was this unity of effort issue, to look at all of the department that is still a fairly broken up and disparate organization, to look at all of the department, where it makes sense, start to unify things like acquisition, like -- like pay.

Even though it's my understanding that some of the pay problems in a couple of the unions, one of the union anyways was actually negotiated that way by the union. It didn't turn out so well as I'm informed. So what we're going to do is turn that over to Elaine and look at all of the -- the Secret Service falls into the same category of another kind of different pay scale and there's a better way to do this so that unity of effort, we'll -- we're going to really breathe some life into it.

Jay started it, great thing. We're really going to finish it over the next year or so or more but find ways to do exactly what the Senate is suggesting. That is come up with better pay systems, better benefits. You know, one of the things the CBP folks tend to migrate into ICE frequently is because they might be from, I don't know, the great state of Missouri and they're working on the border in Arizona and that's OK for a few years but they want to get maybe back home.

So we'll look at that too but that requires a lot of detail work and I think -- I don't know what the exact number is in terms of a larger force, CBP particularly, or ICE for that matter. And for sure, Secret Service needs to be bigger, for sure they need to be bigger. They are carrying a load that is almost crushing the individual agent and we're going to fix that.

But to your point, sir, we're going to take -- we'll take on all of that and improve it with your help.

JOHNSON: OK, yes. We'll want to work with you on that. I come from a manufacturing background, continuous shift operation. You need four shifts and I'd love to work with you and the agencies design a proper ship that doesn't overburden the -- the -- the personnel.

Just real quick because you did raise this issue about the device searches. In -- in fiscal year 2015, under the Obama administration, there were 8,500 devices searched, and they realized this is actually pretty effective. So in 2016, they searched 23,877 devices. Can you just kind of talk about what -- I think an (ph) article -- I think a lot of concern about that. Can you just relay (ph) some of those concerns and talk about really effectiveness of why we should be doing this?

KELLY: There's a -- roughly a million people a day come into United States, either by land or by aviation. You know, that million -- that tiny half of -- one half of 1 percent might have their devices looked at. Generally speaking, these would be foreigners anyways. In fact, in almost every case, they'd be -- a large percentage would be foreigners. But it's the normal process of coming into the country.

And so what do they -- what do they look for? Frankly, a couple of examples, I would give you is, it's one of the ways they find these pedophiles when they -- and the -- and the CBP people, of course are interviewing travelers entering the United States will send people to secondary (ph) for whatever reason -- and there a million of (ph) reasons they do this, will send people to secondary (ph). Usually they're there for a short period of time. It might be to do -- their

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passports look out of -- out of sync or something like that; their stories don't match what the passport says. There's a -- there's a million of (ph) reasons.

But some of those reasons revolve around men who are coming from certain parts of the globe that -- that -- what do they call it? Sexual tourism, I think -- pedophiles anyway. So that's one -- one way we catch them. We go on, we look at their -- at their device, and it's filled with child porn. That's one thing.

Recently, we had a -- and again, a couple of examples, we had an individual traveling here from a Middle Eastern country during the process. The profiling if you will, there was something not quite right about him matching up with what he was telling about his -- his past -- where he had come from, his passport. So we put him in secondary. They looked -- ran his -- his contact numbers out of his telephone, and he was in contact with several -- I won't go into it too deeply -- but several well-known terrorist traffickers and organizers in the Middle East.

They then looked at the pictures and saw a full display of -- of you know gay men being thrown off of roofs and people being beheaded and all that. Now, we had no reason to hold him because he was not in any database, so we sent him back. That I think appeared shortly after that in a newspaper about how we were focusing on a Muslim male, and we did it because he was a Muslim and from the Arab part of the world.

But the point is, there are reasons for it. But to Senator McCaskill's concerns, this is not routine. It's done in a very small number of cases. It won't be done routinely for people that are coming here from -- from -- from anywhere -- it won't be done routinely from anywhere. But if there's a reason to do it, we will in fact do it. But whether it's France, Britain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, or Somalia, I won't be routinely done at the port of entry.

JOHNSON: Thank you, general. Senator McCaskill?

MCCASKILL: General, is the president OK with fencing instead of a wall?

KELLY: The president has told me "Kelly, go do it." I -- we need to protect the southwest border in any way that that makes sense.

MCCASKILL: So you -- he understands...

KELLY: ...I have a lot of elbow room.

MCCASKILL: So he knows that we're not going to build a concrete wall -- a 2,000 mile concrete wall? The president knows that, right?

KELLY: The president knows that I'm looking at every variation on the theme and I have no doubt when I go back to him and say "you know, boss, wall makes sense here, fencing -- high-tech fencing makes sense over here, technology makes sense over here," I have no doubt that he will go tell me to do it.

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MCCASKILL: And can you provide to the committee the request by the border chiefs for how many miles they're requesting of barrier?

KELLY: Can I -- yes ma'am.

MCCASKILL: Yes. I mean you're going to ask every border chief for their sector...

KELLY: ...Right.

MCCASKILL: How many miles do you need and where?

KELLY: Exactly right.

MCCASKILL: And are you also going to ask them for their technology requests?

KELLY: All of that will be part of -- I mean their input is absolute to what we're doing.

MCCASKILL: Right. Can we get those requests as soon as you receive them?

KELLY: Absolutely.

MCCASKILL: Because I think it's really important -- the sooner we stop this, you know, we're going to build a wall from sea to shining sea and the Mexicans are going to pay for it, it's embarrassing. It's not going to happen, everybody in Congress knows it's not going to happen. Every Republican knows it, every Democrat knows it. It appears the only person who won't say it out loud is the president of the United States.

And it's embarrassing. I don't understand it. I mean, it makes no sense and frankly the money we reprogrammed for the -- the prototypes, the solicitation says no technology insertion is even a requirement of the prototype and you know situational awareness is going to be key for these border chiefs. They -- it does no good to build a big wall if they can't see over it because they aren't able to respond to the ladder or to some kind of breach.

And so I just -- it's just frustrating to me. You get it, we all get it, but the president is so stubborn and won't say to the American people "we're going to use your money wisely and we're going to protect the border in a way that makes sense. And by the way, Mexico is not going to pay for it." So I urge you to speak truth to power in that regard. The sooner the president gets some credibility on this, I think the better off we all are and I think it would make your job much easier.

That's my two cents worth. And by the way, you get a lot of bipartisan support immediately for budget requests that are based on sound ideas about securing the border. We're not -- I mean I think the majority of the Senate, and I can't speak to the House, is not going to sign a blank check for a wall that we know is never going to be built. So the sooner we all get honest about this, I think the better off we are.

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So the extreme vetting, I get what you're saying that it will be applied to very few people but if it is the policy of our country to increase the questions asked for visa applications all over the world, and to expose the 38 visa waiver countries to this possibility, it has a dramatic impact. And you've got to understand, Secretary Kelly, that if they know we're going to look at their phones -- I'm talking about bad guys.

I've had some experience with bad guys. If they know we're going to look at their phones and we know we're going to ask them questions about their ideology, they're going to get rid of their phones and guess what they're going to do on ideology? They're going to lie. Are we going to use polygraphs?

KELLY: That would be -- we couldn't do that for all of the people that we currently put into secondary, no but your point's well taken in terms of if we were doing these things routinely but there's -- there's databases we look at that bring us to cause to bring someone into secondary, travel patterns -- I'd prefer not to go into it but travel patterns tell us a lot about a person.

And that would get someone to go into secondary. But generally speaking, the average tourist coming into the United States is not going to have their -- we're not going to ask them...

MCCASKILL: ...So we're going to tell them we might -- we're going to tell them we might ask them about what they -- I think the things that -- was the article accurate that they're going to be asked how applicants view the treatment of women in society, whether they value the sanctity of human life and who they view as a legitimate target in military operation?

Are we going to explain to all of our friends across the world that they could be questioned like that if they come into the United States?

KELLY: I wouldn't say those would be questions we would ask.

MCCASKILL: So this article is incorrect that these are what -- this is what's being considered?

KELLY: Which article is it?

MCCASKILL: This is the "Wall Street Journal" article yesterday that said visitors to the U.S. could be forced to provide cell phone contacts, social media passwords, and answer questions about their ideology according to Trump administration officials.

KELLY: I don't -- those questions you've indicated are not questions that I think would be, you know, used in the secondary kind of questioning. As far -- once again, I go back to very, very small numbers. We do -- it is effective to catch people -- you know, they come in -- they're coming in the country but they're not really here yet so if they don't want to cooperate, they can go back.

MCCASKILL: But aren't we telling them what they need to do to get in? I mean, that's what's weird here. It seems to me we are signaling something that's very un-American to the rest of the world by announcing this policy. Every ambassador in Washington read this article in the Wall

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Street Journal yesterday and every ambassador in Washington called back to their country and said, listen to this, they're going to start asking people for their social media password and about their ideology in America. That is incredibly damaging, and all the bad guys are going to like just lie. I don't get how get we get anything out of it. It's that damaged (ph).

KELLY: As they say, very small numbers -- that we will go to those questions or requests social media -- and I'm talking really -- I'm talking right now about at our airports and ports of entry. We'll -- we'll go in that direction when the professionals at the counter decide that there's a reason going to in the direction. But the vast majority people will not -- will not be questioned in that way.

It's just like the vast majority of people that come into the country, foreigners, and for that matter, American citizens, we don't go into their luggage and inspected their luggage. Is the same kind of thing? We will do it when we think there's a reason to do it.

MCCASKILL: Well, I'm -- as you can tell, my hair is on fire about this. I am really upset that America would be saying this to the world. and if -- if needs a classified briefing in terms of understanding better what the plans are and who would be pulled, and if somebody can explain to me how we get terrorists when they know all they've got to do is lie to the questions and buy a burner before they come to America...

KELLY: I think you know, senator, this is nothing new. We've been doing this for -- to the best of my knowledge, my staff tells me for a number of years.

MCCASKILL: We have never announced that it is the policy of America that all foreign visitors to our country could be subjected to this kind of questioning and this kind in intrusion.

KELLY: Well, questioning again, I'm not aware the questions you -- the questions you -- you recited are not questions that I'm familiar with at all and I don't...

MCCASKILL: That's what I want to get to the bottom of. And I will just tell you, Americans would never put up with this in other countries. If -- if -- if all of these countries sent a signal that if you come to our country -- can you imagine a U.S. senator saying, oh yeah, well lets go to Japan and they're going to take my phone for three days if they feel like it, and they're going to ask for my social media password, or I can't go in. Or they're going to ask me questions of my -- my ideology.

I mean, can you imagine anybody in America wanting to go there? And we don't want to send that signal. That's what the essence of my questions, secretary. And if you can follow up with us about how this is going to be applied and clarify it to the world that we welcome our friends to America, I think that would be very helpful.

KELLY: Again, I'll just thank you, Senator McCaskill. I'll just remind you, in fiscal year, 2016, 24,000 devices were searched. So this is -- this is not new. I think its being somewhat blown out of proportion. Senator...

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(CROSSTALK)

KELLY: ... chairman, if I can add to that, and of the ones that were searched, very, very small percentage were actually gone into forensically, if you will. It's essentially, they turn it on, and we'd like to see the pictures. And again, if we find child pornography, we find -- we find really grizzly photographs of terrorists' acts, that's the kind -- we -- we're not -- we're not sending these to -- we could if we want to, and in small numbers we do, but we don't send them to a place to be forensically taken apart...

JOHNSON: And unfortunately publicizing this, does make it less effective, unfortunately. Senator Hoeven has graciously allowed the chairman or Armed Services to slide ahead of him. So, Senator McCain?

MCCAIN: Thanks, Senator Hoeven. You know what sets my hair on fire? The fact that we know that coming out of Raqqa are people that have been directed to come and get into the United States of America and commit acts or terror. Isn't that true? It sets my hair on fire.

KELLY: It's absolutely, sir (ph).

MCCAIN: Does it set your hair on fire that there are now -- we know published reports, their efforts at taking these devices and planning explosives and committing acts of terror with this technology? Does that set your hair on fire?

KELLY: It does, Senator.

MCCAIN: And they are developing technology right now to put -- one of the reasons why there's been some of the band on what can be brought on an airliner sets my hair on fire right now. So I'm really worried about offending every ambassador in Washington. That's what always has been one of my greatest concerns, is how they feel and I certainly wouldn't want to offend their feelings. But the fact is that there are people being trained in Raqqa today that are leaving Raqqah and trying to get the United States and use various devices to commit acts of terror in the United States of America. True?

KELLY: It is true.

MCCAIN: Thank you. So maybe we ought to put a little perspective on this in our hysteria.

KELLY: If I could add to it...

MCCAIN: ...Go ahead.

KELLY: Senator, we know there's somewhere in the neighborhood of 10,000 European citizens who are in the fight, in the caliphate, Iraq and Syria. And as that caliphate is being reduced, those individual fighters are being encouraged to return to Europe and do terrorist- type things. Now in many cases, because of the nature of Europe and the borders and whatnot -- lack of borders, in

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many cases the countries where they're citizens don't know that they've been out of the country fighting in Syria.

To the point of visa waiver countries, so we're in a position now where someone who's in Raqqah today returns to pick a country and basically can get on -- he's not in any database and can get on an airplane and fly here under the visa waiver program and be in the United States. That doesn't keep me up at night too much but it does keep me up so we're looking at visa waiver.

We're looking at all kinds of ways that to keep these people out...

MCCAIN: ...I want to make sure that -- I want to make sure that we are not restricted from looking at anybody's electronic device given the public information that we know of their attempts at trying to develop these capabilities in order to set off bombs. Also, by the way, it does -- I'll tell you what does set my hair on fire, and that is that we now have Phoenix, Arizona as the major distribution point for Mexican manufactured heroin coming in this country across the Sonora border. Is that true?

KELLY: It is true, Senator.

MCCAIN: And that it's killing people all over America including some governors in Northeast and Midwestern states are saying its an epidemic, particularly a group of Americans that I care about, and that's older white males. Is that right?

KELLY: It's absolutely right.

MCCAIN: OK. So we need to do one hell of a lot better job on this drug trafficking and human trafficking that's coming across our border. And I'm happy to tell you that I hear from my friends in the Border Patrol who say their morale has gone up now that we have your kind of leadership. By the way, I'm not sure you should have taken all that bullet for the travel ban but that's a subject for another day.

But what are you going to do about -- can you -- can you interpret a wall -- a wall, the word wall, as being drones, towers, fences, tunnel -- attempts at detecting using technology to detect tunnels, to have really what is an electronic wall plus the personnel? Could that -- could that fit the definition of a wall and maybe stop this flood of Mexican manufactured heroin that's flooding into this country and killing people at a very great rate including the fentanyl which is particularly lethal?

KELLY: Yes sir. In my view, the wall is all of that. We -- just before you came in, we had this discussion. In my view, the wall is all of that.

MCCAIN: So if we interpret the wall as that, I think most Americans would support it.

MCCASKILL: True.

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MCCAIN: But however, we've got a problem with Mexico. Right now there's a lot of anti-American sentiment in Mexico. If the election were tomorrow in Mexico, you would probably get a left wing, anti- American president of Mexico. That can't be good for America.

KELLY: It would not be good for America or for Mexico.

MCCAIN: OK. And then finally would you just tell us a little bit about -- I thank the indulgence of my colleagues, what kind of cooperation are you getting from the Mexican authorities and what kind of cooperation are you not getting?

KELLY: We're getting a huge amount of cooperation from the Mexicans. Senator, I go back to my time when I was in uniform at SOUTHCOM. Very, very good relationship with the Mexicans both on their southern border where they stopped 160,000 illegal immigrants from Central America last year all the way up to the -- to the northern border. The relationship between the local authorities on our side of the border is pretty good with the local authorities on the other side.

I count some of the -- certainly the -- the head of the Army and the Navy as friends. I was just -- I'll be -- I was there about a month and half ago, had a great meeting all of -- all the way up through with the president.

MCCAIN: How serious is corruption?

KELLY: Corruption is very, very widespread. And it's much -- much of that is due to the -- the profits that come out of the drug use in the United States. There's no doubt about it, corruption is widespread. They're trying to get after that, it's a dangerous place because of the corruption and the trafficking; most of it fueled by U.S. drug consumption.

MCCAIN: Well, the heartbreaking one to me is the human trafficking, Mr. Secretary, and I wish all Americans were aware of how terrible this situation is. These young girls being transported up, hooked on drugs and its -- its -- its so terrible. A lot of times you don't like to think about it. How -- how high is that on your priority list?

KELLY: It's very, very high. In fact, the good news is for really the fifth month in a row, but certainly the second big month in a row, the movement of the human -- the human trafficking of people in general is down significantly. And -- and to your point, and the young girls in particular in the family units down even more significantly. And that is all as a result of what we've started to do on the border and frankly my working personally with Central Americans, presidents, attorneys general, religious leaders and with our -- our relationship with -- with Mexico.

MCCAIN: Well, the next time you do a travel ban, how about thinking it through? Thank you.

JOHNSON: Senator Hoeven?

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HOEVEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. General Kelly, good to see you again, thank you for being here. Thanks for the important work you're doing. In terms of the mix (ph), we -- we're talking about infrastructure, we're talking about technology, we're talking about people -- how to make sure you have the right mix as you put that together?

KELLY: On the wall? Really, you know, really we have to rely on the folks that work the border. there are -- the younger agents are down there the (inaudible) work every day, but some of the more senior agents, they know the border in their sector better than -- you know, better than anyone, and they can tell us -- and we'll do that study.

HOEVEN: So I'm a member of the Appropriations Committee for all Homeland Security, and we're putting together you know, your appropriation for FY'17 and then of course we'll work on '18. so it's very important that we have the resources, and that when we talk about building a wall, as you define, that wall is not only wall itself and fencing, but it's also technology and people. It's very important that we have that funding in your appropriation bill for FY'17, isn't it, to secure the country? That it -- that would be an incredibly important priority for you, wouldn't it?

KELLY: It is, yes sir.

HOEVEN: OK, thank you. Second thing is metrics. What metrics are most important? You provided us with some metrics here? We appreciate that, it's encouraging. It shows that you are having success. Tell -- tell us what of the most important metrics that we need to be cognizant of, you know, how do we use them to make sure that the American people understand what's going on, on the border and you know, that we are getting to a more secure border?

KELLY: I think certainly the metrics are people that don't cross into the United States illegally. Another metric would be the amount of -- and it mostly comes through the -- the ports of entry, which is another discussion that we can surely have here. But the amount of drugs that come through -- but as I said so many times when I was in the United States Southern command, once the drugs get the Mexico -- Central America, Mexico, they're essentially in unless we do something about the border.

Now, I think the senator knows virtually all of the heroine consumed in the United States is produced in Mexico from Poppy to laboratory to packaging to in the United States. All of the cocaine that we consume comes up the same way. Much of the methamphetamine comes up the same way and an awful lot of opiate pills that are counterfeit -- produced --counterfeit pills come up through that. Fentanyl, largely through Mexico, but now increasingly directly from China to the United States by -- by the U.S. mail. It's an unending struggle, it's -- but it really does go back to -- and I was just in a meeting last week or early this week -- last week now with the president and a number of people to get after this drug -- drug consumption in the United States. One of the first conversations I had with Then-Candidate Trump was when he brought up to me the issue of securing the southern border.

I said "you know, boss, Mr. Trump, there's no way we're going to do that unless we get after drug consumption in the United States. And I don't mean arresting more African-American guys

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and throwing them in jail for -- I mean, no kidding, a comprehensive drug -- drug demand reduction" and Mr. Trump has taken that on and has put together a task force.

So from -- from rehab to law enforcement to try to stop the production in Mexico, all of that adds up to, we'll have a much more secure border if we -- if we can stop drug demand reduction -- or drug demand in the United States. And we never had -- some states have, some communities have, some organizations have tried but we've never had a comprehensive campaign against it.

HOEVEN: As we increasingly secure the southern border, won't that put more pressure on the northern border and other ports of entry?

KELLY: And other ports of entry, for sure. The beauty of the northern border is Canada. I mean, they are committed to say the least, they have a very -- very, very, very low rates of corruption. They have tremendous law enforcement and -- and our partnership with them just couldn't be stronger so that's the advantage. And I hope over time Mexico -- and again, the strains on the Mexican society, the violence, again, corruption, we can hope that that gets better, they're trying.

My relationship with -- in fact right after this, I'll meet with the -- with the -- again for about the fourth or fifth time with a good friend who is the foreign minister of Mexico. I just had the military leadership which play a different role in their society than our senior military people do. And my -- my HSI people, my CBP people, my ICE people are in Mexico in large numbers as are -- as is the FBI.

The collaboration's very, very good law enforcement. It's just not...

HOEVEN: ...You would -- but you would agree we need to do more on the northern border as well and what are those security measures? UAS for example, sensors, you know what are the priorities on the northern border for you?

KELLY: Well, right now there is not nearly the same level of cross-border crime and whatnot. We obviously need to watch it, one of the things the Canadians recently did was to allow visa -- non-visa -- Mexicans to travel to Canada without visas and we're seeing a little bit of increase in Mexicans coming illegally into the United States from the north.

We're working with them. I'm on the phone with my counterparts in places like Canada all the time but we obviously have to watch the threat. I mean if we were successful in drying up the production of heroin in say Mexico, probably impossible...

HOEVEN: ...I'm not talking just drugs, I'm talking terrorism, I'm talking any -- you know, as you continue to secure the southern border, it's going to create pressure in other places and that's what I want to make sure we're taking the necessary steps on the northern border as well. And I would invite you -- at the Canada border station which is essentially Grand Forks, North Dakota, your border station, they have responsibility for 900 miles of border all the way from the Great Lakes through most of Montana.

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And we're using everything from Predators, the Grand Forks Air Force Base there has Global Hawk. In fact we have UAS test site and the CBP station, they fly out of Grand Forks Air Force Base and I would invite you to come up and see the technology -- you talk about cooperation with the Canadians (inaudible) can also create -- use as an opportunity to build on some of that cooperation with the Canadians. Because you're talking 900 miles of border without a fence, we're going to have to continue to build those relations and that technology to do the job. And I hope you could come -- see what we're doing over here (ph).

KELLY: I'll do that, senator.

HOEVEN: Thank you, I appreciate it, general.

KELLY: Sure.

JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Hoeven. Senator Heitkamp?

HEITKAMP: Thank you. I didn't want to disappoint anyone, so I'm going to raise the Northern Border in the very beginning. Obviously the -- the law that was passed down requires that you meet a June deadline for telling us what the threats are and how we are going to secure the northern border. Can you tell me whether you're on target to meet that June deadline?

KELLY: We're -- we're always on target. I was just up in Seattle and met with the local law enforcement folks. I've been on the phone number times on -- on real ID with the -- with the governor up there. So we've got a little bit of a relationship; more importantly, I talked to my people that are responsible for that stretch from the Pacific inland for about 650 miles -- something like that. They have, again, great relations with the -- with their counterparts on -- on the other side of the border. The real strength is the databases...

HEITKAMP: So -- so we can expect a report in June which then we can react to in the next budgetary contrary, correct?

KELLY: Yes senator, yes.

HEITKAMP: OK. I just want to remind you that eight of the 15 senators actually represent the northern border, so we're going to be...

KELLY: It's got my attention, believe me. I love the northern border

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HEITKAMP: ... and obviously we would love to host you. I'm deeply concerned about personnel issues on the northern border and hope that whatever you are looking at in that study includes securing enough personnel to do the job and to meet the -- the challenges. I want to talk a little bit about Central America.

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It's a -- it's a topic that I know you're well familiar with and it was one of, I think the great opportunity that we had given your position and South command -- command. And given the fact that you have so many great relationships, we continue to be challenged by the northern triangle countries. The -- the rate of murder and mayhem is unparalleled throughout the world, which is saying really something. We're -- we're looking at the alliance for progress as a way to kind of build that soft power, not just look at border security, but how can we in fact refugee in place.

It's my understanding that you're convening a conference in Miami. one of the concerns that I have is who's going all be at the table, because I think it's critically important that everyone be represented, whether it's NGOs, whether it's immigration groups, whether it's advocacy groups, that we all understand that we have a role in securing -- providing some security for those Central American countries. Can you tell me what the plan is and what you hope to accomplish in the Miami conference?

KELLY: Yes, Senator. First I would tell you that I am close to the Central Americans. I've been -- in the short period of time I've been in the job, I've been down to Guatemala. The president of Honduras was just up in my office, he's someone that I've worked closely with before, I'm going to Honduras soon, then to Mexico. Since I've been in this job, I met Mr. Tillerson there -- Secretary Tillerson there.

So I met all three from the Northern Tier countries; Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. All three of their Attorneys General came and we had great discussions, again, friends. Mexican -- go back to that Mr. De Lagre (ph) is in and out of Washington quite frequently. I plan another trip to Mexico so that's -- that's where we are in terms of what we're doing there.

Now when I briefed -- when I had discussions with Mr. Trump when he was still Mr. Trump, I talked to him about the issue again of drug -- drug use in the United States, drug trafficking, what that does to these countries. But some of the things -- and I'll take a little credit, not much, but a little credit for this; some of the things when I was still on active duty Southern Command, some of the things we helped the Northern Tier countries implement have driven down -- now the death rates are still horrific.

HEITKAMP: So what do you hope to accomplish in Miami and...

KELLY: ...Economic -- both -- there'll be two day conference. One day will be economic. We've got certainly one of the real powers behind this is the Inter-American Development Bank. E.U. will be there, it's my understanding some European countries, obviously we will have -- I'm hoping to have secretary of commerce, secretary of treasury, I'll be there, the vice -- our vice president's coming down.

There will be businessmen and women. We -- I believe all three of the Central American presidents and their teams will be there for this. I've got the Canadian -- the Mexicans will co-host this.

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HEITKAMP: What -- will you be reviewing the Alliance for Progress and whether that's been valuable and what changes we need to make as it relates to that commitment?

KELLY: The Alliance -- as you know, the Alliance for...

HEITKAMP: ... Prosperity, I mean (ph).

KELLY: Prosperity, right.

HEITKAMP: Excuse me.

KELLY: I could go into it if you want but I'll just say that I had a lot to do with organizing that with the three countries. They put their own money against it, we, you, the Congress has put money against it. The real thrust of this -- of this event in Miami in June -- mid June I think, will be outside investment as opposed to U.S. investment. Although outside private investment.

So that's what we are trying to -- that's what we will accomplish.

HEITKAMP: I think there's tons of folks who want to help out in the NGO community especially. And I think that -- it takes me to the kind of next topic which is why people are leaving Central America. And you know, I would say there's been a lot of confusion back and forth on what's going to happen to women coming to the border with children from Central American countries.

Just a quick yes or no, there's been reports that you are considering separating children from their mothers at the border and I want to know yes or no whether that's true.

KELLY: Can I give you more than a yes or no?

HEITKAMP: You can just a little bit.

KELLY: OK. Only -- only if the situation at that point in time requires it. You know, the mother -- if the mother is sick or addicted to drugs or whatever. In the same way we would do it here in the United States if we...

HEITKAMP: ...Yeah, so -- so if you thought the child was endangered...

KELLY: ...Not routinely. Sure.

HEITKAMP: That's -- that's the only circumstance to which you would separate?

KELLY: Can't -- can't imagine doing otherwise.

HEITKAMP: Yeah. I just want to -- I know a lot of people think that that might provide a deterrent and we have a number of people within the heartland alliance program and I'd ask that

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this letter -- and I know you get a lot of correspondence obviously sent to you March 8. But it's some comments from women who asked that this be...

JOHNSON: ...Without objection.

HEITKAMP: And I just want to read a couple of them because I think it's really important to understand what's driving people north. My faith was in God when I made the decision to leave. I had never heard of asylum, all I knew was that the United States was a place where people could be protected and safe.

I didn't -- I came to the United States, I didn't think about the policies, I was just considering that United States is a thing that could protect us from violence where we were living. I think you know almost better than anyone else who serves in this administration how horrific the conditions are and I appreciate your answer. No one could disagree that if a child is endangering you believe that, that there should be separation and that that would be a rare circumstance. Is that correct, general?

KELLY: That is correct.

HEITKAMP: Thank you, Secretary.

KELLY: That's a yes.

HEITKAMP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

JOHNSON: Senator Peters?

PETERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And it's good to see you, Secretary Kelly, it's good to have you here before the committee, appreciate your testimony and I also wanted to thank you again publicly for all coming to Detroit on my invitation and putting some time with the Muslim American/ Arab American community, Latino Hispanic community. And of course we had a wonderful opportunity to see firsthand one of the busiest border crossings in North America there from Detroit to Windsor into Canada, and appreciate your -- your interest and your involvement in that meeting.

But as -- as you know Secretary Kelly, there has been up appreciable uptick in hate crimes and crimes against our religious institutions across the country. Last month of Senator Portman and I let a letter that was signed by every single member of the Senate asking your department, the DOJ and FBI to take action against the rise in hate crimes against Jewish community centers, mosques and other religiously associated locations. And as you're aware it's so rare to have a letter signed by all 100 of us, this is how serious we take it. It's been about 29 days since the letter's been written to you, the attorney general and the FBI and was just wondering, when should we expect a response back to all my colleagues?

KELLY: It should have been a long time ago, I'll apologize and I'm on it. But I will tell you this, that I've added -- I've added our approach to this issue to add mosques and, you know, any

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religious building, church, whatever that might be affected by this. We do have some capability within the department to advise individuals that want to be advised about say the security precautions.

I think they told me -- my staff told me yesterday virtually all of the Jewish centers, large groups have taken that advice. We have teams that go out and travel and so we're very -- I don't know if any of the mosques have responded yet but as I say, add all religious communities to that, not just -- you know, I've told my people, let's just not talk one religion, let's just not talk terrorism for that matter.

How about we talk about white supremacists and things like that, so -- but I apologize for not getting back and I will get on that today.

PETERS: I appreciate that, Secretary, and I think it's obvious from your comments you do believe there is a legitimate fear of hate crimes...

KELLY: ...I do...

PETERS: ...In our communities they need to be concerned about. And given that, will you commit to continued support for programs that support vulnerable locations such as the nonprofit security grant program that your department runs?

KELLY: I will.

PETERS: Thank you. I appreciate it, secretary. As you know, Michigan has an extension of the Real ID enforcement allowing federal agencies to accept driver's licenses and identification cards from Michigan. It runs through October 10 of this year in 2017. What is the current status of Real ID implementation across the nation?

KELLY: As I know the senator knows, the Real ID law was passed by the Congress in 2005 and it's -- the real first big deadline is January -- this January coming, I think it's 22nd to where you'll have to have a appropriate Real ID -- approved Real ID or if you don't have that, something like a passport in order to fly domestically, internationally. The map -- and I addressed most of the -- of the governors of all of the states, 48 I think, of the states about three weeks ago.

And for those that are not compliant and is right now I think five that for sure aren't even really trying and that's their call, I mean I'm not criticizing them. But they're not really trying for issues inside the state and then there's another 18 or 19 states that are going in the direction but again are unsure they could be compliant. So when I talked to the governors -- and I would say the same thing here -- I think the governors have to kind of have a real serious conversation with their citizens, with the staffs first and decide whether they can -- they can hit the market in January.

And if they can't they'll have a conversation with their citizens about, you really need to consider getting a passport as an example. Passports for 10 years, $110 I think to get a passport, very easy

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to get, because in January, if they don't have some compliant I.D., they're not going to be able to get on an airplane domestically or otherwise.

I had -- this was -- scared me to death actually, because I thought -- when I -- well I just thought that the people I was talking to in Washington, which is a really a red state right now, probably not get there. And by the way, the governor -- several governors have asked me to send some people from my staff to take a look at where they are to do an appraisal of if they're going to make it so that they could talk to their people. I've made that available to all the states.

But the point is when I was talking to these businessmen and women in Seattle who were in the -- in the -- you know, very well- informed people. They were all under the impression that their state enhanced drivers' license was real I.D. compatible, which it's not. So if -- if people like that were unaware of -- of the -- of the ID situation, I'd say the vast majority of the -- good citizens of Washington State.

So the point is, where it is right now, if you're not fully compliant on -- on 22 of January coming, then you will have to have a form of I.D., like a military I.D., or a passport -- passport card in order to get on an airplane. That's where it is right now.

PETERS: Under section 102, of the Real I.D. Act, the DHS can wave laws to facilitate the construction of a border wall. This provision has been used up previously to waive dozens of laws, including some environmental load laws. What laws does DHS intend to waive to build this new wall along the southern border?

KELLY: First, obviously, do the -- do the -- do the nuts and bolts survey of where we're going to put wall -- and at that those points, as I understand it, I would have to consult my -- my lawyers, obviously but places like the Indian reservation would be complicated, and -- and we're -- we're working with the Indian reservation in Arizona, 75 miles of the border. They already have some technology there. That would be a place that would be unwilling, unlikely to take on. There are some eminent domain issues.

We'll try to do as much as we can without those kinds of -- without those kinds of issues coming -- coming to ahead. Certainly, I'm very, very aware of any critical habitat, particularly say the Big Bend part of Texas. So again senator, not going to build a wall where it doesn't make sense, but we'll do something across the Southwest border.

PETERS: I understand you're -- you're going to need some time to review some of these issues and perhaps we can work closely with your office as that goes forward. But I would just ask if you'd be willing to commit to -- to one item, and that would be not to waive of FOIA under the wall project, so that we can have full transparency.

KELLY: Can I get back to you? But it sounds like a yes to me.

PETERS: Great, appreciate that. Thank you.

JOHNSON: Senator Hassan?

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HASSAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and ranking member, and good morning Secretary Kelly. It's nice to see you again. There is a specific program within ICE's Homeland Security Investigations division that focuses on bringing law-enforcement scrutiny to the adjudications of visa applications. The program is called the Visa Security Program. Right now in 30 United States diplomatic posts around the world, specially trained law enforcement teams are dispatched to provide recommendations to the State Department's consular offices in order to help these diplomats make informed decisions about whether to grant a visa to a foreign national.

Bringing law enforcement skills to the visa adjudication process makes a lot of sense at least to me, hope it does to you too. And it should probably be, I think, implemented across the board for all diplomatic posts that issue visas. We're working on possible legislation on this topic so I wanted to ask two questions. Would you support the expansion of visa security teams to more diplomatic posts and is the visa security team fully funded in the fiscal year '18 budget request?

KELLY: I'll have to check on the funding issue but I think anything we can do overseas to make better decisions about who might come to the United States for whatever reason is -- is a good idea and should be reinforced and we should be constantly looking at even better ways to do that. But I'll get back to you on the funding if that's all right.

HASSAN: OK, no, that's fine. Thank you. I want to now move to a different topic. As you know as well as anyone, we have seen multiple incidents of violence at the public or non-sterile areas of our airports. In 2013, a TSA officer at Los Angeles International Airport was murdered at the TSA checkpoint by a disturbed individual while earlier this year an active shooter killed five people near the baggage claim area at the Fort Lauderdale Airport.

Last spring, suicide explosions occurred in the public areas at Brussels Airport and Istanbul Ataturk Airport killed 61 people. In the president's initial budget release, the federal support for securing the public portions of airports has been gutted. The budget cuts the VIPR teams, the behavioral protection officer program is eliminated, and TSA grants to reimburse state and local law enforcement for their patrols at airports are also being slashed.

So amid this increasing threat to our airports, why is the administration cutting these key counterterrorism measures?

KELLY: The VIPR teams for sure are something that I'm working very hard to save.

HASSAN: OK.

KELLY: As far as the grants go, and this doesn't fall under the sanctuary city thing or anything like that, I think the expectation is that parking lots and areas outside the immediate -- you know, the TSA security zones really belong to the state, local -- you know, the airports are great generators of revenue, are necessary for various states and I think the thinking there is that the state and local folks need to -- you know, I'm familiar with the Boston Airport, I mean there's more -- there's more state police that, you know, kind of, you know cycle around that airport, not to mention Boston Police.

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So I think the thinking is that for outside the security perimeter that's established by TSA, that would belong more to the local community.

HASSAN: Well, as a former governor, I might suggest that we discuss that a little bit more because I know how much additional work securing even the non-sterile areas are and it's a partnership to be sure but I am very concerned -- money is not growing on trees in our state budgets and so I think it's something we really need to look at because the overall security climate at airports I think will really be compromised with those grants.

So I'd look forward to discussing that with you more. I'll submit for the record a question on airport -- foreign airport staff screening. But I did want to talk a little bit about DHS and cyber defenses. In an effort to strengthen its cyber defense, the Department of Defense recently launched two programs to capitalize on the vast network of U.S. computer security researchers who may not want to work for the federal government, but still want to help secure our nation from cyber threats.

The first was a pilot program called Hack the Pentagon and it provided hackers across the country with legal authorization to spot vulnerabilities in DOD networks in return for cash payments. The second program with the establishment of a vulnerability disclosure policy which provides a legal avenue for these hackers to hunt for and report vulnerabilities in DOD networks without fear of prosecution. I think these are really forward thinking cyber programs that leverage an untapped resource in United States. So the question is, has DHS considered implementing similar programs?

KELLY: One of the things -- I don't know if the Senator was here -- one of the things now -- now that I have a deputy, this -- this is a critically important issue, it goes without saying.

HASSAN: Right.

KELLY: Now that I have a deputy, this is another one of those things -- the -- the whole cyber enterprise within -- within DHS. But -- but another thing we -- were already doing, and that is -- that was just one of the reasons I was in Seattle recently, is reaching out -- reaching out as is, I think all of government -- reaching out to the commercial sector, because the -- the answers are just not -- they're definitely not just of the federal government.

HASSAN: Right.

KELLY: They're everywhere. So Elaine Duke, now that she is confirmed -- and thank you for that -- will -- will take this on, among a number of other things that -- that she'll focus on. I'm with you on this. And I -- was unaware of these programs where I am now, and I can get back to you can and talk to you about it?

HASSAN: I think it would be great just because, again we have a lot of people with talent and skill and interest in serving their country who may not want to come work for the government, but we really need their -- their skill and their insight.

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One last area I wanted to touch on. I know you referenced this morning the president's commission on the opioid epidemic and I was glad to see you were there at the listening session on opioid and substance misuse last week. And you and I have spoken about the issue before, both in our one-on-one meeting and your confirmation hearing. And we've agreed on the need to crackdown on illegal opioids, while also dealing with the demand side of the problem of prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.

So I'm looking to find out more about the goals of the president's new commission on combating drug addiction and the opioid crisis, which he established by executive order last week. And I want to ensure that the rhetoric here is that by real action that reflects the seriousness of this crisis. The news reporting on the commission's been a little scattered. So the first question for you is, are you a member of the commission?

KELLY: I am.

HASSAN: OK, that's great to know. And my understanding from the executive order is at the commission has 90 days to make a report on interim recommendations. Do you know what the process will be to get to those recommendations?

KELLY: I don't. It's in the staff realm, but let me just say, this -- to say the least is a passion for me. And my entire time in Southern command, I -- I talked about this To the point of getting a fair amount of -- getting crosswise with a fair amount of people in the White House and other parts of our government. The beauty, I think, of this president was -- I don't know if you were in the room when I made this comment before but one of the first conversations I had with President-Elect Trump was this issue of drugs, drug demand, what it does to not only our own country but to certainly the hemisphere.

HASSAN: Sure.

KELLY: And the money it makes available for corruption and terrorism and things like that. He's -- he's taken this big (ph) and he's going to make this work, I believe. So it's a comprehensive -- everything from drug demand reduction to rehab to law enforcement to helping out the Central American republics to working with Mexico on the heroin production.

We have great partners down -- it's just very long, 2,000 mile if you will, process of trying to get at the drug demand.

HASSAN: Well, I appreciate that very much. I appreciate your presence on the commission, I look forward to working with you on it and I put a plug in for central benefits in our healthcare so that people can get the treatment that they need. Thanks.

JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Hassan.

By the way, I've seen cherry blossoms growing on trees here in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately I haven't seen money grow on trees here in Washington either.

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Senator Daines?

DAINES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary Kelly, thank you for being here today. I kind of figure when you put a four-star Marine in charge of homeland security, good things will start to happen. And...

KELLY: ... not everyone agrees with that.

DAINES: Yeah, well I do. I was struck yesterday, we were in this same room in fact, this -- the same table, you had one of your former commissioners at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, David Aguilar was here testifying and I asked him a question about the reductions that we're seeing in apprehension rates of illegal southwest border crossings.

That February data point came out and saw a 40 percent reduction in February when we typically see because of seasonality anywhere from a 10 to 20 percent increase, we saw a 40 percent decrease in February. David then followed up and said "I believe we're going to revise those numbers as we have a little more time here" because that release came out on March 8, now we're into April.

He said "it looks like it's actually a 67 percent reduction in the month of February." This is not a statistical anomaly, something is going on. We talked about what that is in terms of the messages coming from the administration about enforcement rule of law. So I just want to congratulate you and the administration with some early success. My question is, these are encouraging results. What substantive actions will you be taking in order to make sure that we can sustain these reductions that we're seeing early on in this administration?

KELLY: The first would be to gain control of our southwest border. Much of what we're seeing here -- and the second would be to work -- and I don't know if you were here when we were talking about this, the Central American issue of helping them security and economically. The -- again, I've traveled many times, they call me, they're my friends (ph). The people from Central America that are coming here, overwhelmingly nice people.

Simple for the most part, rural, not highly educated, that's just the nature of their societies but they come here for two reasons. One, lack of economic opportunity and two, because of violence particularly in the cities that are astronomical, although, to use Honduras as an example, in the four years that the current president is there, he's taken it from 91 per 100,000 which is what it was when I was in Miami on active duty, highest in the world, it's down I think 50 -- 59.

And that's still astronomical. Violence across our country is about 5 per 100,000 murders. So it's still high but the point is they're bringing it down and I was speaking with the -- separately with the president of Honduras in my office just last week. What he's done economically he expects to grow his economy by 600,000 jobs in the next five years.

KELLY: This is phenomenal information or progress. The Jimmy Morales from Guatemala, similar kind of efforts and similar kind of successes both in reducing the violence rates as well as

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economics. That's why I think this -- this economic forum if you will, in -- in Miami in June will add to it. So why aren't they coming? They're not coming for the most part, because they don't know what's going on. they've heard of the -- the actions of the ICE agents internal of the United States, much of it terribly misreported by -- by our press but that said, it's -- it's added to the deterrent effect. What we're doing on the border -- what we intend to do on the border has added to the deterrent effect.

These people are not wealthy people. Their entire -- oftentimes their entire life savings are given to the coyotes -- to traffickers to get one or two or three them into the United States. We know because of the focus we're putting on the traffickers now when we catch them -- actually prosecute them. The traffickers now have raised their fares, their prices two and three times. So what used to be, say, $4,000 per -- per individual to get into the United States from say, Honduras is now 8,10, $12,000. Well, the people again, down in those parts of the world can't afford that kind of money. They're already paying more than they could afford. So all that is added to the deterrent effect.

My appeals personally through the press and to the presidents and the attorneys general from those three countries, the Roman Catholic leadership, the evangelical leadership. I met with the -- our -- the Los Angeles Roman Catholic Archbishop, spoke with the Archbishop in Houston; again, asked them to contact their counterparts if you will, in those countries to -- to ask, beg the people not to take that horribly dangerous trip to the United States, because you will be sent back and you won't have the money, and you'll probably -- if you're a woman have been assaulted once if you're lucky; or if you're young, you could be siphoned off into the cartel gang Mexican fix. So that's why they're not coming.

DAINES: Yeah, well I -- I -- I think you're also demonstrating in my opinion, the experience you are bringing from your Southern command leadership. I think is having already a significant impact on our country in protect our southern border (ph).

KELLY: Thanks for that (ph).

DAINES: No, thank you, truly. And also, I appreciate your compassion as you're looking at the effect it's having on very poor people who are being taken advantage of as they're seeking to come into our country. I'm from Montana. We think about our northern border but the southern border and the methamphetamines that are coming into Montana and they're coming in from our southern border having a huge impact on our state.

Mitigating the flow of drugs long before they reach our border, as you are well aware, your time in command of SOUTHCOM is very important. We discuss this concept to confirmation hearing. What steps have you taken on the job to stymie the flow of drugs as well as violence into our country?

KELLY: Great question. One of the things we know about the flow of hard drugs, marijuana comes in vast amounts but it's also produced in the United States in vast amounts, but methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine are the big killers and along with that are opiates that are counterfeited, if you will, and of course not with a lot of quality control so -- but you don't know

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-- the average person abusing opiates in the United States doesn't know that a lot of it is not produced by, you know, credible -- they're produced by labs in Mexico or in other places.

But the point is, most of that comes into the United States in 10, 15, 20 kilo loads via the ports of entry, in trucks and things like that. So what have I done? We're now looking very, very hard at the ports of entry which are not really part of the wall, if you will, effort. But look at the ports of entry. If there is better technology out there and I think there is to look into vehicles without unloading the vehicle, particularly tractor trailers to get after it that way.

But I would tell you, methamphetamine, helping -- working with the Mexicans. They're good partners in law enforcement. My folks, I'm proud to say, my HSI, Homeland Security Investigation, working with the Mexicans led them to -- I'll just put it that way, to two huge methamphetamine labs that were destroyed by the Mexican -- Mexican marines, I think in that case.

Working with them and identifying the poppy fields in the south -- the Pacific Southwest of their country and helping -- offering them perhaps help in how to eradicate those, much as we've done for so many years in Colombia with coca. That's what we're doing but the big issue really right now in drugs coming into the United States is the ports of entry and a part of that as well is what goes south.

We don't look at much at going south out of our country. The Mexicans don't look at that very well either. I'd like to extend the effort to look in vastly more vehicles going south because bulk money in unbelievable amounts travels south out of the United States into the rest of the hemisphere to get laundered. I mean billions and billions of dollars in guns.

If we point a finger at the Mexicans or people who produce -- countries that produce drugs, we point our finger at them about the production of drugs, they will point their finger right back and say "what about guns?" So we need to do better and the southward flow to go after the money and to go after the flow of guns. And that'll take some time, some effort, but I think there's a next step and a next step after that in technology.

The stuff we have now is pretty good, I was up with Senator Peters looking at the busiest traffic point between Detroit and Canada. Technology that looks into trucks, tractor-trailers is pretty good but I know there's better stuff out there and we'll just -- we'll just get after it. But mostly the drugs come in, we believe, we know comes in, in relatively small amounts, 10, 15 kilos at a time in -- in automobiles and those kind of conveyances.

DAINES: Thank you, sir. Secretary Kelly, thank you.

JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Daines. I just want to remind everybody kind of watch the clock. We've got great attendance, I appreciate it, want to make sure everybody gets a chance to answer questions -- or ask questions. Senator Carper.

CARPER: Thanks so much. General Kelly, great to see you How are you holding up? You've got a lot on you? You have a lot of tough jobs before?

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KELLY: I've been in this job for 15 years, but it's -- three months seems like 15 years.

(LAUGHTER)

CARPER: I'm sure it does.

KELLY: This is the most enjoyable thing I'll do this week.

CARPER: Well for us, too. For us, too. We say this often -- we say (inaudible). Thank you for being the voice of reason, thanks for being just a great patriot. I -- we've been talking a bit about -- I'll just follow up on a number of (ph) the questions -- deal with the border, border strategy, and that sort of thing. I think the message I hear form both sides and on this side, hearing from you as well, is there's -- we need an all the above strategy on the border. It's not just a wall, it's not just as fencing.

Those are important and appropriate in certain places, but if -- if immigration -- comprehensive immigration reform was a guest worker program, it sort of takes away the need for people to come up here and get stuck up here on this side of the border but can go back and forth and do good work out for -- for -- for our country go back to their home. It includes reference the lines of perspective (ph), I'm delighted to hear the economic summit that you're planning for -- being held in May. Do you have the dates yet on that?

KELLY: It's going to be now in June, and that was based on our vice president's desire to attend, either the 12th -- I think it'll be the 12th, might be a little later. It will be in Miami just because that -- that is -- is a great place to bring Latin Americans because of the language and all of this kind of -- he's very familiar with city. So that's the place to do it.

DAINES: OK. Well, I'm glad you're doing it because it's a smart -- smart move. One other thing we need to do is we need to -- in order to incent of the private sector and others -- countries and other organizations to -- to help out in the work that needs to be done in Central America so they actually have some economic hope and opportunity and do a better job combating that crime and violence, we set the example, our funding for alliance with prosperity (ph) I think, is very important for that. My hope is that -- that you can continue to support. I think you know what makes sense.

KELLY: Absolutely.

DAINES: I like to say for the folks down in Central America, you can do it, we can help. Do you (inaudible), but we can -- they (ph) can help and I think we're doing that. Border security -- the force multipliers that -- there's just a tone of them. Innovation, we talked about the innovation of technology, but it's -- it's not just drones and fixed wing (ph) aircraft, it's not just (inaudible), but it's those -- aircraft but it's with the right kind of surveillance technology. Invader (ph) system, that kind of thing, it's actually so much more helpful.

I mentioned yesterday in the -- in my -- in my comments, 23 years in the Navy, naval flight officer, P-3 aircraft mission command, we did a lot of anti-submarine warfare (ph), a lot of stuff

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(ph) off the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia. We also did search and rescue. And we did search and rescue with binoculars out of the P-3 aircraft at 500, 1,000, 2,000 feet, good luck; it's hard to find anything. Invader (ph) systems make all the sense in the world. But part of the -- part of the forces multipliers is observation tires (ph) that can be fixed.

As you know, they can be mobile, they can be mobile, they have to have the right surveillance systems. Part of it can be horses. And some of its been down (ph) and chairman, I've been down I think maybe with Heidi to see the horses do the work in (inaudible) force multiplier. There's motion detectors, there's intelligence -- better intelligence. How are we doing on the intelligence in terms of the intelligence we're sharing with the folks in Mexico and further south?

KELLY: Sir, the law enforcement intelligence information sharing is very, very, very good.

DAINES: Part of the force multipliers are boats and the ramp. We can get the boats in the water, so all kinds of stuff. In some places it makes sense, other places it does not, but it's an all the about approach. I want to ask you to talk a little bit about leadership and the management -- the ability of management -- to manage this organization. Senator Johnson and I, (inaudible) and I, and a number of this committee worked right closely with Jeh Johnson, with (inaudible) to try to make sure that the department had a terrific leaderships team -- a confirmed leaderships team.

And I think many of them are gone now, as -- as you know, and that's -- we had an election. The -- but we want to be helpful. We have Elaine Duke's confirmed yesterday, we want to be helpful and bringing the rest of your leadership team in. You'll have to tell us who you want to give us a chance to -- to do that. So we look forward to hearing about -- about that. The other think on leadership I found -- and we talked about this before, it would be nice to have, instead of all the departments spread over hell's (ph) half acre throughout the greater Washington metropolitan area in Virginia and so forth. It'd be nice to have people I consolidated in a more close-knit area. That could be St. Elizabeth's (ph), I think it should be. I wasn't always at the end of the St. Elizabeth's project (ph) but I've come to believe that it's the smart thing to do -- smart fiscally smart thing to do. Your thoughts, please?

KELLY: If I could comment on the leadership, I would tell you you're right. Elaine, myself, really the only two political types and almost -- I don't know -- I can't quite get my arms around the fact that I'm a political appointee because of my life before this.

CARPER: Look up in the dictionary for political appointee, your picture is not there.

KELLY: Thanks (ph). But we have tremendous career professionals so the function of the department has not -- from when Jay left and all the rest of the political appointees left has not stopped at all. We have tremendous long-serving public servants that are running the department now and as time goes on, of course, political appointees will theoretically be confirmed by the Senate and will take their places and then they'll learn their jobs underneath those tremendous public servants.

CARPER: That's a good point.

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KELLY: On the consolidation, I don't think -- two things. DHS I don't think will ever be, you know, a functioning, cohesive organization to the degree that it should be and could be unless it does consolidate somewhere in more or less the same building or on the same campus. First issue. And the second issue is, and as long as the department answers to as many...

CARPER: ...Committees and subcommittees?

KELLY: Yeah, I mean, you know, Jim Mattis has four committees that he has to concern himself with and a number of subcommittees and that's -- and that's what I -- that was my life before. This is a very, very different beast but I don't think it'll ever be, you know, as I say, as cohesive as it could be so long as we have, I think it's a hundred -- well, it's 119 plus committees and subcommittees that still have jurisdiction from the olden days from when the department was formed.

It's not impossible to function but it won't be the same so long as there's so many disparate committees to answer to and that generates frankly a...

CARPER: ...Does St. Elizabeth's make sense?

KELLY: It does make sense. The committee does make sense, yeah.

CARPER: All right, good. Thank you. My time's expired, thank you so much.

KELLY: Thank you.

JOHNSON: Senator Harris.

HARRIS: Secretary Kelly. I was heartened to hear your response to Senator Heitkamp's question about the separation of children from their parents. I understood you to say that only if the life of the child is in danger would there be a separation. Is that correct?

KELLY: That would -- depending on what's going on, on the ground but that generally would be my approach.

HARRIS: And are you willing then to issue a statement to your staff that that is your approach and that that's your policy?

KELLY: My staff knows already that they will not separate anyone unless I'm informed and get my permission.

HARRIS: Have you issued a directive to that?

KELLY: They know that.

HARRIS: That's not my question, sir.

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KELLY: My response is they know that so yes, I have through the leadership told them that if that's going to happen, that will only be me...

HARRIS: ...With all due respect sir, are you willing -- are you willing to issue a directive to your staff that that's your policy?

KELLY: I have already done that.

HARRIS: You have issued a directive?

KELLY: Through my leadership.

HARRIS: I'd like a copy of that then. Is that in writing?

KELLY: It's verbal.

HARRIS: OK. Are you willing to issue a written directive to your staff that that's the policy of the department? You have -- you run an organization of 230,000 people. Is that correct?

KELLY: Right at 230.

HARRIS: And why are you reluctant then to issue a directive to your staff if that is in fact your policy?

KELLY: I'm not reluctant, I've already given the -- the verbal -- and it only really applies to...

HARRIS: ...So are you unwilling, sir, to issue a written directive that it is the policy of the department to not separate someone from their mothers unless the life of the child is in danger?

KELLY: I don't need to do that. I've done it verbally.

HARRIS: So is your answer no?

KELLY: My answer is I don't need to do that.

HARRIS: You don't need to do it. Sir are you aware that Sean Spicer said that with the new administration, that now finally the president wanted to take the shackles off individuals in this agency? Are you familiar with that?

KELLY: No.

HARRIS: Are you familiar with Brandon Judd who testified before our committee in response to a question from Senator Daines said that now that we can take the handcuffs off of us and put the handcuffs on the criminals. Are you aware of that?

KELLY: No.

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HARRIS: Are you aware that...

KELLY: Is that a recent hearing?

HARRIS: Yes, it was. Are you aware that David Lapan, you're spokesperson said yesterday to the Washington Post that "immigration agents may arrest crime victim and witnesses at courthouses?"

KELLY: Yes.

HARRIS: And are you willing to exempt victims and witnesses who do not have serious criminal backgrounds form that policy?

KELLY: Every case is different and we -- as they -- as the agents do their work, of course, the people that are taken into custody are put into a legal justice system. So that's where the decision would be made to deport, export, whatever.

HARRIS: Are you willing to initiate a policy that says that if that person who is a victim or a witness to a crime who is at a courthouse in any county in the United States, appearing as a victim or a witness to a crime, that if they do not have a serious criminal background, that they would be exempt from a policy of picking them up at that courthouse?

KELLY: No.

HARRIS: And are you aware that local law enforcement has a concern, because this has created a chilling effect among victims and witness to crime, and has resulted in their reluctance to show up to actually testify about crimes committed in their community.

KELLY: I have heard some number of laws enforcement people say that, but also hear the opposite view.

HARRIS: During your confirmation hearing before this committee on January 10, you committed to doing a top to bottom assessment of DHS, is that correct?

KELLY: I did.

HARRIS: And have you finished this assessment?

KELLY: No.

HARRIS: When do you plan to finish it?

KELLY: I don't know.

HARRIS: You don't have a goal of finishing it?

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KELLY: I have a general goal.

HARRIS: What is that date?

KELLY: Well, one of the things I'll task my new deputy that was confirmed yesterday, she'll take that one.

HARRIS: Have you given her a date for when that assessment will be complete?

KELLY: No, because when she wasn't confirmed, I didn't deal with her as a deputy; I didn't want to presume confirmation by the Senate.

HARRIS: So you do not have a goal for your department on when that assessment will be completed?

KELLY: She and I will discuss a goal.

HARRIS: And have you read the -- as part of the assessment that needs to be done, have you read the report issued by the Inspector General, John Roth that was issued just four months ago, November 7, 2016, entitled "Major Management Performance Challenges Facing the Department of Homeland Security?"

KELLY: I'm aware of the report, yes.

HARRIS: Have you read it?

KELLY: I'm aware of it.

HARRIS: So you've not read it.

KELLY: An executive summary.

HARRIS: OK. In the report, the I.G. says, quote "this year, we are presenting a broader picture of management challenges by highlighting those we have repeatedly identified over several years. We remain concerned about the systemic nature of these challenges, some of which span multiple administrations and department leadership." Do you agree that many of the challenges are systemic and deeply rooted in the department?

KELLY: Well, of course that was pre-Kelly. And it was...

HARRIS: It was four months ago that report was issued. Do you agree with the statement found by the I.G., based on his analysis of your department?

KELLY: That was pre-Kelly. I am committed...

HARRIS: I'm sorry, pre-Kelly, meaning you?

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KELLY: I wasn't in the job yet.

HARRIS: OK.

KELLY: I -- as I've committed to the committee before and to the Congress in general, we're going to take a top to bottom look at how we're organized and how we can do business better, and that includes how we're -- how we have -- through the leadership functions.

HARRIS: Are you aware, sir, that on March 22, union officials and leaders from both ICE and border patrol appeared before this committee? During that hearing, Chris Crane, who is the national ICE council president said, and I will quote, "there is a toxic and failed management culture." He went on to say, quote "a good ol' boy network exist within your department." He went on to say officers are, quote "tripping over mangers in the field," and then said also that the agency has outdated and quote, "practically no policies in place." Are you aware that that is a sentiment among leadership in your department?

KELLY: It certainly is -- certainly that's the sentiment through really, DHS in terms of how DHS was run for the last eight years. Going forward, it won't be run like that anymore.

HARRIS: And how...

KELLY: Once I -- once I determine how we're going to change the leadership approach.

HARRIS: So you are going...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS: ... to come up with a plan for fixing this for the 230,000 people in your department? And is this a priority for you?

KELLY: It is.

HARRIS: And at the same hearing, both Mr. Crane and the National Border Patrol President Brandon Judd (inaudible) in terms of its morale?

KELLY: That was certainly the case under the Obama administration, but we're changing that already.

HARRIS: And you're going that within what time period?

(CROSSTALK)

KELLY: It's already changing.

HARRIS: Oh, it's changed?

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KELLY: It's already changing.

HARRIS: It is changing, OK. And in regards to your top-to- bottom assessment, has your assessment included looking into the morale issues at the agency and putting in place programs and initiatives to actually improve the morale?

KELLY: It's what I do, yes.

HARRIS: And can you provide us with a list of the policies that you've instituted to improve morale at the department?

KELLY: My leadership is the start point and we'll continue to look at ways to improve the morale. One of the issues most focused on by this -- by the workforce since -- over the last eight years that affected their morale was an inability to do their jobs. Now that -- now that we've opened the aperture in terms of the amount of work that they're allowed to do, the -- I'm deflecting a lot of outside influences into the workforce so they can do their jobs...

HARRIS: Sir, my question to you -- with all due respect, my question to you is, what have you put in place to turn the morale around in this department and the morale which is the lowest of many large federal agency and the condition has existed throughout the -- it appears, the life of the agency and certainly has passed through many administrations.

KELLY: Under the Obama administration, the morale suffered terribly.

HARRIS: So what plans have you put in place, sir?

KELLY: My leadership.

HARRIS: So you're saying by virtue of you being there, morale will now change?

KELLY: By virtue of the fact -- the greatest impact in raising the morale in the last 90 days or so has been that the workforce now is allowed to do their job.

HARRIS: And that would be, they're now unshackled. Is that correct?

KELLY: They're allowed to do their job as the professionals they are.

HARRIS: And the administration has proposed tripling the current number of ICE agents and increasing the number of border patrol agents by 25 percent in addition to requesting a $4 billion to begin the construction of a wall which has been discussed. Are you in support of actually bringing on these new agents before you have repaired the damage that has exited in your agency?

KELLY: It's simultaneous, sure.

JOHNSON: Senator Harris, we're going to give you an opportunity...

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HARRIS: I'll go to round two. Thank you, Chairman.

JOHNSON: I'm not sure we're going to have round two but we'll have opportunities to submit questions for the record.

HARRIS: I do have more questions so if we can do a second round, I would appreciate that.

JOHNSON: I want to be, you know, thoughtful of people's time.

Senator Portman.

PORTMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And General Kelly, it's good to have you before the committee again. First of all, I'm glad we finally got Elaine, the great Ohioan over there in your department. You talked earlier about her being a political appointee. I view her as a career person having had 27 years in the federal government and including obviously big roles over at DHS as a career expert on management and procurement and some of the big challenges that you face trying to bring together all these departments and agencies into one.

So I'm glad she's there and I know she will be a tremendous asset to you. At your nomination, we talked a lot about this drug issue. And as you know, I was very complimentary of comments that you had made to this committee about a year and a half ago now regarding the importance of focusing on the demand side and that's where I've focused most in the last 25 years and I agree with you, that's the single most important thing is to reduce the demand.

And you talked about prevention and education, treatment and recovery, helping law enforcement and so on. I was a little concerned about the comments earlier about the commission. I do hope the commission heeds your comments and your thoughts on that. But you should also know just by way of information, Congress just spent three years going through this process that the commission's going to do in 90 days apparently which is helping identify the problem.

We had five conferences here, not just numerous hearings, but conferences bringing in experts from all around the country looking at best practices and came up with this Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, a bipartisan bill that was finally passed last year and one of my concerns is that only three of the eight programs provided there, including things like helping out on drug courts and some of the things you've talked about in terms of diversion, it's not about locking people up, it's about better prevention and getting people the treatment they need.

But only three of those eight programs have been implemented. And I pushed the Obama administration on this and I'm now pushing the Trump administration on it. So one, I hope you'll get up to speed on what CARA's about, what it does. It is comprehensive, not just in name but in reality and it's based on a lot of work that's been done not just over the last few years with these conferences but around the country over time.

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Because I don't think we need to recreate the wheel

I think we need to go to action, this is a crisis and it's an epidemic, certainly in my state and many other states around the country. It -- its one that is particularly difficult because of the opioid issue.

In other words, crystal meth is increasing in some communities. I understand the cocaine is back in some communities. This opioid issue -- the grip of that addiction has been a huge challenge as you know, for treatment and -- and recovery. We're beginning to learn more about it and how to do a better, but we got to get this legislation implemented and get the Cures Act money appropriated again.

I hope the budget will reflect that ,which is another $500 million we need in next year's budget just for helping the states to be able to deal with this. On fentanyl, it's the new issue. As you know in so many of our states we probably are hit harder on it than other state, we're told per capita. But this is this toxic substance, as you know that is a synthetic heroine, carfentanil, euphoric (ph), it goes by various names, but it's -- its created by evil scientists in a laboratory somewhere. And you mentioned it coming in from Mexico. Yes, some comes in for Mexico but primarily that's coming from China to here as I understand from your people in and then going to medic going back into here.

The vast majority of it -- and there's a new commission report out -- the U.S.-China commission recently is coming from Mexico. I'm sorry -- coming from China. And it's coming from laboratories in China, and is coming by the U.S. mail system. And you and I talked about this again during your confirmation process, and the very difficult job that CBP and DEA and others have of identifying these packages, because the U.S. mail system does not require advance information as to what's in the package, where it's from, where it's going. By the way, FedEx and UPS and DHO and other private carriers do require that.

And what we heard from your folks, including Todd Owen, executive assistant commission, the office of field operations at CBP, when he testified before this committee on this, is that having this advanced data from the post office would be key to helping you to build to target these packages to find the ones that are suspect. we have legislation, as you know, called the Stop Act that is bipartisan, Senator Klobuchar, myself, Senator Hassan, who was here earlier, Senator Rubio, that we are attempting to get passed simply to say lets require that these packages have this information.

This is what we've heard about from your people as the solution to being able to target some of this fentanyl, to being able to stop some of this poison coming into our communities and killing our -- our citizens. By the way, that opinion was reinforced at a roundtable discussion I had just 10 days ago in Ohio with your CBP folks. We had two of your port chiefs there, we also had folks there who are from your HSI group, your group of individuals who work with law-enforcement every day to try to find this -- this material.

We also had folks from DEA who had testified on this. And so my question to you is what can we do to get this done President Trump in the campaign talked favorably about the Stop Act.

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You have talked favorable about the need to have that this information. I guess what I would ask is two questions. One, you agree with me that having this advanced data on shipments coming into the United States, up from both the post office and private carriers would help your officers be able to target illegal shipments?

KELLY: I do.

PORTMAN: Second, would this informed targeting by CBP potentially reduce the ability of the post office to be sent for illicit shipping of all kinds of contraband?

KELLY: I think it will.

PORTMAN: And third, have you had a chance now, since your nomination, to review the Stop Act and what are your thoughts and comments on the Stop Act and its potential to be able to help?

KELLY: Just in -- in preparation for this hearing, we had a long conversation CBP people on the issue of the post office. Apparently -- and of course they don't work for us, but the -- the post office leadership is -- is starting to move in the right direction. Just the other day I get a DOG -- DOJ effort, DEA agreement, such as they are with China but in agreement at least that they will get after the fentanyl production and -- and shipment out of their country. I'll see how that turns out. One of the problems, as I think you know, Senator, that my folks have pointed out to me is, a lot of the countries that -- where these parcels come from, you know, just don't cooperate.

But that's -- that's an effort that we should focus on to have them cooperate in terms of identifying the package, what's in the package, this kind of thing so again, I was probably not as aware of this issue three days ago as I am now. And Kevin McAleenan who we hope someday will be the commissioner, he's the acting now, has this very much on his front burner as it is now mine -- on mine.

PORTMAN: I appreciate that but we're asking President Trump to raise this to President Xi because you're right, China's not doing enough to close down these laboratories and keep these materials from being spread. And by the way, it's a problem in China as well. I'm told the fentanyl is now leaking out into the...

KELLY: I think that's the only reason now they're interest because it is a problem.

PORTMAN: It is a problem. You know, a few flakes of this stuff can kill you. It is being put in relatively small packages and sent and there are millions of packages so do you agree that the STOP Act would be helpful to be able to identify these packages?

KELLY: Yes, sir.

PORTMAN: Thank you for that. And I guess the final thing I want to say with regard to the border because we talked a lot about this earlier and I really appreciate your comment which was we're not going to build a wall where it doesn't make sense. We do need a wall in certain areas

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including some urban and even some suburban areas and we do need, again, the technology that was talked about earlier in other areas.

You mentioned specifically the Big Bend of Texas. I was there at the end of the year, I've been there several times.

KELLY: Canoeing, right (ph)?

PORTMAN: I was and, you know, you're not going to build a wall on those canyon walls and so we need to reassure people that this is about an effective way to secure the border and I appreciate your comments, I understand (ph) think that will help clarify the situation. Thank you.

KELLY: Thanks, sir.

PORTMAN: Appreciate your service.

JOHNSON: Senator Tester.

TESTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you, Secretary Kelly, for your service and I mean that. I go back to what the ranking member in this committee said in her opening remarks and that is that we have faith in you, we have faith in you being the adult in the room because of your past record and your past performance. We believe that that will carry on as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

I've got a number of questions. One deals with, there was $20 million worth of reprogramming money that you requested and that, Senator Boozman and I signed a letter basically stating, utilize the money but utilize it in the best way to protect the border. Not necessarily a concrete wall. Could be a fence, could be drones, could be technology, could be a number of things.

Have you determined how that $20 million is going to be spent?

KELLY: Again, Senator, on the barrier, wall, technology, whatever, we'll -- we'll do it where it makes sense and what makes sense. But we won't waste any money but we have not determined right now what this thing will look like, how long it will be, you know.

TESTER: So -- and I appreciate that response but really the question is, is we reprogrammed $20 million. I don't know that that's the best use of that money because I think it was going to be used in technology but that's a different debate. We did it and the question becomes, if you use all that $20 million to put up a prototype concrete wall, for a prototype to be used, that pretty much tells me what we're going to be doing.

If you use that $20 million, part of it to put up a concrete wall, part of it to use maybe blue rose (ph) technology, part of it to maybe use drones, part of it to use radar, part of it maybe for manpower discussions, that puts my heart at more of an ease. So the question is, is that if you have how this reprogramming money's going to be used, I would like to know it and if you haven't, could you tell me when you might have it?

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KELLY: Let me get back to you specifically on that, Senator, but you can -- you can rest assured we won't waste the money and we're not going to build one prototype. We're going to take a look at what makes sense along that whole border.

TESTER: OK. Secret Service was brought up earlier and I also agree that due to circumstances with this administration, your Secret Service is probably stressed more than it ever has been before. Have you made any requests of Congress -- first of all, am I reading that right? I may be reading it wrong and if I am, that's fine. But have you made any requests on Secret Service and the demands that have been put on Secret Service and if we need to deal with that through the budget?

KELLY: Not as of yet. Again, the first thing I'd like to say, and I think you'd agree. Individually the best men and women imaginable, they're just phenomenal that people and they work so hard, and they're -- they max out their over time.

I mean, they just leave (ph) themselves, coming and going. So they need -- and we will come forward to the -- to the Congress and make the case, but they need a lot more agents, not just because of -- of the Trump era, if you will, although that is additional, because he's got a lot of children, grandchildren. we need more agents and we need more uniform personnel regardless of whether it's a Mr. Trump or a Mr. Obama or a Mr. anybody because what they do is much larger than simply -- you know, the mission there at the White House and -- and with -- and with presidential travel.

I mean, things like the -- any -- any foreign dignitaries that comes to the United States. It's a much bigger than just that, so we need a larger Secret Service because we need to get some of these people a little bit of time at home with the families.

TESTER: Got you. Coast Guard, you talked about it in your opening remarks. The president's budget came out and lacked Coast Guard, along with a lot of TSA and a lot of other agencies that are under your purview. Question number one is how much input did you have in that budget? Question number two is what are we going to do about fixing it?

KELLY: Question number one, very little. I talked to the OMB people about way forward (ph), and we made -- we're going to make the money -- we'll make the money good for the Coast Guard. They -- they're too vital to securing the Southwest border and a lot of other things.

TESTER: And Mar-a-Lago and a lot of other things. OK, thank you. Northern ports, we talked about ports of entries where drugs are coming through, and we all are focused like a laser on the southern border, and I think that's cool, but the northern border has its challenges too. Can -- can you -- can you tell me how concerned you are on the northern border, and if your concern is with -- I don't think this would be classified information -- is it with drugs?

Is with the undocumented people coming across the line? Is it with the terrorist activities? Where is your -- where is your concern with the northern border and -- and -- and then while follow-up on a that is RBC is concerned with what comes a with the northern borders of the border we'll have a follow up on that.

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KELLY: not as -- obviously as concerned with what comes with the northern border as the southern border, but it is our border, so I'm concerned with all the borders. The great -- the absolutely great news story in the northern border is that we have Canada there that it's...

(CROSSTALK)

KELLY: ... a friend and ally. They interact with us at every level, they're very careful about who comes into their country. Maybe not as careful as I -- I want us to be going forward about who comes in our country, but the good news story get up there is -- is the -- Canadians, their law enforcement, their commitment.

I would say the -- actually this might surprise you. I think -- not a concern really, what I'd like to see the northern border be is -- is even thinner if you will, so that the -- the movement safely and securely of all commerce and (inaudible) can be even -- you know, even streamlined more.

TESTER: It's a big deal. Last thing, and excuse me if this has been asked before, I don't know that has been or if it hasn't. Eminent domain, on the southern border, if we're going to build a wall -- if we're going to do anything, it's going to require permission from the landowners. On the northern border, those landowners are critically important for security. By the way, they're an extra set of eyes we don't have to pay for. How you do with them eminent domain on the southern border?

KELLY: We'll do it judiciously. There may be places we have to do it. Again, that will be part of the both of the -- of the evaluation of where we build the wall, how we build a wall.

TESTER: I would -- I would just say that -- and this point has been brought up in these hearings before -- if you want to get people's attention in rural America, just talk about eminent domain. That hair will be on fire.

KELLY: You know senator, I'm told that back in the -- I think 2008 effort to put fencing on the border, we're still in -- in -- in court with -- with people about eminent domain. Nine years ago.

TESTER: Look I get it. I've got a farm that has to be in the family 100 years. Those ones down there, they're probably 140 or 150. If somebody tried to eminent domain my place, they'd take me off in a box because I wouldn't let them do it. So that's where we're at. Thanks.

KELLY: Thanks.

JOHNSON: This hearing is setting a lot of hair fire. Senator Paul?

MCCASKILL: And his is so special, to be on fire.

(LAUGHTER)

PAUL: General Kelly, thanks for coming. If I travel abroad and I'm coming back home, do you think it's appropriate to deny me entry to the country unless I let you search my cell phone?

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KELLY: Under -- under very, very, very critical circumstances, I would say that an American citizen ought to be able to come back in and not have their electronics searched.

PAUL: We've gone from 5,000 people having their cell phones searched to 25,000. We are denying people entry who are citizens or green card holders who are coming back home and your department is saying to them you cannot return to your home without giving us your fingerprint and giving us all of the data on your phone, access to all the data on your phone.

I think this is an extraordinarily unreasonable standard. I also think that you probably can differentiate between citizens, U.S. persons, and those who are coming to visit. So I'm not saying you can't have some standards and that based on suspicion, you can deny someone entry to the country but not a citizen, not a green card holder. They are denying access to our own country.

I could travel abroad and be told I cannot enter America unless I let you look at my phone. That's obscene and do you have a response? We're up to 25,000 of these now.

KELLY: Well it certainly hasn't increased significantly in the 90 days I've been in the job and the 90 days Mr. Trump has been the president. I don't believe we're turning -- I don't think we ever turn back legal citizens or -- I mean citizens or legal residents.

PAUL: That's what's in the paper, I think the last month -- they're telling -- there was a guy that had a green card and his wife was a citizen but he lived here for many years, he was told he could not enter if he did not give his fingerprint to the government.

KELLY: Let me take that on, Senator. The one thing I have learned in this job, that everything I read about this -- about this department or what goes on at our borders is always more to the story. But in general, just like an American citizen coming in and having his bag searched at the port of entry, generally speaking, it's done for a reason.

PAUL: Right. But I think there are different -- and I'm not blaming you. It may sound like I'm blaming you. You've only been on the job for a month or two but in your nomination hearing, you said you were going to respect the fourth amendment and you were going to respect people's privacy. So my hope is that you'll go back and ask people, are we really doing this?

KELLY: You know I will.

PAUL: There have been many reports of this. I would also argue though that there's a difference between searching my bag and my cell phone, OK? If I'm coming in, there is -- it is known that one of the things that happens at the border are drugs, we have dogs, we do all the (ph) -- and we do random searches of bags.

We're doing that even domestically. So I think we can accept that but I think that people are going to be horrified the more they hear that their cell phone, all their contacts, we don't even know what's happening to our cell phone while it's gone and in possession of the government. Are they downloading? And this is the story was this, that they're downloading everybody's contacts and information, there's an extraordinary amount of information on your phone.

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KELLY: Not happening.

PAUL: All right but that's what the stories...

KELLY: These are citizens (ph). And in some cases, it is certainly happening to foreigners coming in but not routinely.

PAUL: But it's gone from 5,000 a year to 25,000. If you wouldn't mind, if you'd look into it and have your people get back to my office on this...

KELLY: Will do.

PAUL: But you know, we put forward legislation, bipartisan legislation because we're so upset about this that really if you're a green card holder or a citizen, even if you had suspicion, the way it would probably work if you were, I think, obeying the spirit of the constitution is you might be able to seize my phone but we would then go to a court and a court would determine whether you had probable cause to actual get the access to my phone for a citizen.

And for a noncitizen, I think if you don't give it, you can probably deny entry. I mean, there are rules on travel to our country. But I think for a citizen or a noncitizen to say I can't come back to my country without giving you the contents of my phone is, I think, really a...

KELLY: Just don't believe we're doing it (ph).

PAUL: All right. But we'll -- please look at the news reports because it wasn't just one, there was a whole series of them in the last couple days and a few interviews of people who are green card holders not being allowed entry. Thanks.

JOHNSON: We will do a second round but I'm going to limit to five minutes because I want to be respectful of the secretary's time.

So Senator McCaskill.

MCCASKILL: Yeah, following a little bit on Senator Paul, I -- I was -- I had to smile when Senator McCain said I was being hysterical. I was being focused and passionate and I learned it from him, by the way. So I was -- and I want to be very clear, I completely understand that we have to take steps to keep terrorists out of our country that are coming here to kill us. I completely understand that this is a global threat that we have to pay attention to and I understand and completely accept that there are people being trained in Raqqah to come here and hurt us.

My point is, I want to make sure what we're doing is effective. It's now out there that we're taking people's phones. I mean, no terrorist that has the ability to come into this country and hurt us is going to come in with anything other than a clean phone. And the people who are going to get caught up in this are going to be a lot of people who aren't probably terrorists because if they were, they'd be smart enough to clean their phone.

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The same thing with some of the -- like I talked about, the questions, they're going to lie and we aren't going to -- you know, maybe we're going to -- for some, maybe we should do polygraphs if we have good information that they're terrorists. So I'm not -- I'm not in any way saying I don't want you to go after terrorists and I don't want you to figure out ways to find the people, and we're taking lots of steps around the globe to do that and I certainly identify with Senator Hassan's remarks about the law enforcement teams helping embassies in terms of screening visa applicants.

All great. So electronic devices, I agree with Senator McCain. I think we've got to be doing some extraordinary steps about electronic devices and I was supportive, I appreciated you giving me a call of you doing the unprecedented step of not allowing laptops in cabins from certain countries. And if you wanted to take a moment, I only have one other brief question so if you wanted to take a moment to maybe explain that so we all understand what steps you've taken and why it's important.

KELLY: Senator, as we discussed on the phone and I made 15 phone calls that day to make sure the leadership, both sides of the aisle, both sides of the Hill understood what we were doing. And then we provided classified briefs to, you know to the Hill again and it's a real threat. I mean, we know on any given day there are dozens of cells that are talking about aviation -- attacking aviation.

And you just watch them over time and see if they develop, if they go from talking to actually doing something. So there's a real threat all of the time. You saw the Russian airplane that was blown up coming out of Egypt as an example, the Somali airplane that thankfully didn't catastrophically come apart but a hole was blown in the side of the airplane and only because the airplane was not at altitude did -- was the pilot able to bring that aircraft home.

It's real. Based on the threat is -- and this was my decision. Certainly briefed it to the president but this was my decision, once I took in all the information from all the sources, that there is a real threat against aviation always but a specific threat and the airports that I decided to prohibit or to do the additional -- the new baggage protocol, that is to say the large electronic devices into the cargo hold are predominantly Muslim countries.

I didn't do it because of the Muslim religion or the color of their skin or -- as some have accused. I was trying to help out the American aircraft industry in places like the Emirates. It's real. I think it's getting realer so to speak. We may take measures in the not too distant future to expand the number of airports. It's real.

MCCASKILL: We appreciate your focus on it and I certainly support the steps you've taken in that regard. Missouri is one of the states has not done Real ID and I just -- I just want to make sure that you clarify what is going to happen next year. And the reason I say this is the Missouri legislature is struggling with this. You know, this -- this happened before I came to the Senate.

Both Republican senators voted for this in 2005. In fact, all 100 senators voted for it in 2005 and I understand why it's controversial and frankly I kind of identify with that in many ways because of the state I'm from and our distrust of government in our DNA. But I -- I -- the governor said

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recently that he had gotten some signals from the Trump administration that would indicate that it wasn't going to be enforced.

And so as a result, the Missouri legislature I think is now struggling with whether they need to do anything. I don't know what you're going to do but whatever you're going to do, the more quickly you clarify whether or not this is going to be enforced next year is really important. Because I think there's some mixed signals going on and as a result I worry about Missourians and their ability to participate in aviation in this country come this time next year.

KELLY: Senator, your comment just now is the only time I've heard anyone say that we're not going to enforce the law in January. I mean, as I say, I've been saying it to the press, we've been saying it to the governors, I...

MCCASKILL: Well you need to call the governor from Missouri because the headline was, Trump administration indicates they may make a change, and then it goes on to say the people who are against doing say, well we need to give Trump time to change this...

KELLY: I'll call some governors (ph) right away.

MCCASKILL: Yeah, that would be terrific. I think that would be very helpful because I know he wants Missourians to be able to fly too. This isn't partisan. We want Missourians to be able to fly next year.

KELLY: My -- my advice again to all of the -- to all of the states that are not right now compatible is to just tell -- tell their -- their citizens to -- you know, the best thing to do is get a passport. And again...

MCCASKILL: Or a passport card.

KELLY: Or a passport card. And again this -- this issue up in Seattle this last week was with this business group, all of whom thought that their state license enhanced will fill the bill and it won't. And if they didn't know that, then I'd say the average Joe and Jane Doe -- they're probably under that misconception. But there's about, I'd say 10 to 12 states anyways that are questionable that they could pull this off.

And so I will call the governor, yes.

MCCASKILL: I really appreciate it.

KELLY: Yes, Ma'am.

JOHNSON: Senator Harris for five minutes.

HARRIS: I appreciate that.

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Secretary Kelly, I represent a state of almost 39 million people which is also a state with the largest number of immigrants documented and undocumented of any state in this country. And they have a right to have an understanding, a clear understanding of the policy priorities of your department. On March 8 confirmation hearing for Elaine Duke, I asked her how the seven enforcement categories from your February 20 memo would be prioritized and she answered that the priorities are listed in descending order.

Do you agree with that?

KELLY: No.

HARRIS: And so what is the -- can you please rank then the seven factors and the priority among them?

KELLY: Those seven factors allow the ICE folks to make their decision as to who they will develop a target package on and then go try and apprehend. But they're not in descending order, they're just those are the categories.

HARRIS: So what has been your direction to the folks on the ground about what the priorities should be understanding that they, like all law enforcement agencies, have limited resources and a very important charge? Are you not giving them any direction around priorities within the seven criteria?

KELLY: The direction they have is, the start point is illegal -- illegal status and then something from the priorities. But they're not going to go after, as an example, all the murderers and then we get -- all the very, very serious criminals and then once we get all of them, go after the next and the next and the next. They can go after an individual if they -- according to the law, if they are on the list because they're illegal and then something.

HARRIS: So sir, among the seven categories, you have as number one convicted of any criminal offense and obviously there's no doubt that especially if someone has been convicted of a serious and violent felony they should be apprehended and they should be dealt with. Second is that anyone charged with a criminal offense but then there has not been a finding of guilt.

The third is they've committed an act which would constitute a chargeable criminal offense so they've not even been charged with the offense. The list goes on to number seven or in the judgment of immigration officers otherwise pose a risk to public safety or national security. How are you training the folks on the ground to exercise their judgment as it relates to factor three or factor seven as an example?

KELLY: They're already trained and they, through -- through that direction down through the leadership of ICE down to the local agents in charge and whatnot, they train them to execute that policy.

HARRIS: So as former manager of a very large law enforcement organization, the California Department of Justice. I am well aware that you cannot lead a department just from the top

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down, and it is critical that you communicate the policies of leadership to everyone at every stage, including those at the lowest level who in your agency as in most enforcement agencies, have wide discretion to exert and use their authority.

I would like to know what specifically you are doing to train those people and I would like a copy of what you are doing that is beyond the conversations that you have had with managers, but actually what policies you have put in place to train those folks on how they should exercise the discretion that you've given them, as it relates to this expanded list of -- of -- of folks that can be contacted by the folks in your agency. I would like to have a list submitted, sir. And if you would agree to give us a written copy of the training that you are instituting in your department to train folks about how they should exercise their discretion.

KELLY: we can certainly provide you the policy statements and -- and from that the training takes place. Again, they're already highly trained individuals.

HARRIS: Well, we've already discussed how they have the lowest morale of any federal agency and that...

KELLY: Under the Obama administration.

HARRIS: OK. So sir, given the extent and depth of the problems that exist at DHS and that we had so far received no assessment or any program that you have our plan that you have to address these issues, how can you justify such massive increases in hiring and resources, and should the American public really be expected to give you billions of dollars and provide billions of dollars your agency when on blind faith in spite of the fact that there had been no clear change of direction or cores beyond the fact that you are on appointed to lead the agency?

Should the American public believed in blind faith in the fact that you are now the leader and therefore everything has changed?

KELLY: They should have faith in the fact that I'm the leader. They should also have faith that the rank-and-file have now been allowed to do their job. We've already seen a change in the -- the morale; yes.

HARRIS: Thank you, I have no further questions.

JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Harris.

Just to add a little perspective and clarity to the device searches. In fiscal year 2015, there was 77.5 million people that can to this country internationally in the flights. That includes Canada and Mexico. There 38.4 million that came in overseas. The 23,877 devices that were searching 2016 was a under different administration, representing a .03 percent of total national arrival, a .06 percent of overseas arrivals, just to put it in perspective.

My concern about all of a sudden this now new administration, now all of sudden, this is a big problem, we're publicizing this, we may be taking a tool of out the toolbox. Kind of like when

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Osama bin Laden found out that -- that we can actually track his location based on his cell phone. So again, I -- I appreciate your comments on -- on how it's being administered in kind of extraordinary circumstances, many cases again .03 percent of time .06 percent on overseas flights. And I don't know it's -- its just unfortunate.

KELLY: You know Chairman, if I could do, I think -- and this has a lot to do with the press reporting, not against the press -- just they pick up and tend to write off whatever the base story is. I think an awful lot of people are confusing what we're doing at the port of entry today. and the kind of thinking I have in terms of the additional vetting that we will be implementing, whether it's for these overseas -- in -- in overseas locations, whether it's for a visa request to come to the United States, or for that matter, asylum (ph) request.

We are going to do a lot more of this electronic stuff. In addition to other things, whether it's in refugee camps in -- in Kenya or in some other country. And we'll do it -- but we won't probably do the same type of additional vetting in say, Britain or Japan. It just depends on the country, depends on the threat. But I think an awful lot of people have jumped to the conclusion a little bit or certainly the press has picked up for whatever reasons and I'll assume they were doing it, you know honestly, that we're not going to do everyone's phone and -- and you know, computer at the border.

JOHNSON: And of course that's the impression the press leaves so we blow it out of proportion. We take what could be an effective tool out of our toolbox and we make this nation less safe, so. And again, I just think it's unfortunate, I kind of want to lay out -- and I think you explain it pretty -- pretty well. You look at a phone, you look at the photos, there's no password required for that it's just oh, I see -- I see a potential pedophile there and that helps prevent something.

And it's just unfortunate that we do publicize some of these things that from my standpoint ought to remain more at a classified level or just -- not discussed in public domain.

MCCASKILL: Well I -- Mr. Chairman, I just want to say, I think having these hearings is how we get to the bottom of it and find out the facts. That's why we do this and the questions are important to be asked so we can get the clarification.

JOHNSON: I -- I understand.

MCCASKILL: And so I think -- I think the secretary now is in a position to understand the concerns and I think he'll respond to them and -- and we'll all be in a better place.

KELLY: I'm unfortunately way ahead and I think if Jim Comey and people like that certainly sitting here at the table with me, law enforcement in general, these -- these new applications that will make it impossible to look into someone's phone or electronic device -- right. We will lose a huge -- this country, the good guys and gals in the world in the west and other places -- well, in the world that are trying to protect their people will lose tremendous asset when these applications become more widespread than they are, tremendous advantage lost.

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JOHNSON: And I will say (ph) the last time Director Comey was before this committee, he was basically predicting when we finally end the caliphate, Diaspora of terrorists unlike this world has ever seen, we're going to be dealing with that and you're going to have to be dealing with that so I want to make sure you got the tools in your toolkit to keep this nation safe.

So again, General Kelly, thank you for your service, thanks for coming here, thanks for your testimony, your answers to our questions. With that, the hearing record will remain open for 15 days until April 20 at 5:00 P.M. for the submission of statements and questions for the record. This hearing is adjourned.

END

Apr 05, 2017 20:00 ET .EOF

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From:	DHS Legislative Affairs (b)(6) (b)(6)
SentVia:	Bugler, Erik (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Cassidy, Ben </O= (b)(6) (b)(6) "Corbin, Susan </O (b)(6) "Harper, Jerald </O (b)(6) "Ladowicz, Pete </ (b)(6) (b)(6) "Phillips, James M < (b)(6) (b)(6) "Readinger, Jeff </ (b)(6) (b)(6) "Hymowitz, Emily < (b)(6)
CC:	"DHS Legislative Affairs (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	HEARING TRANSCRIPT 04-05-2017 S1 before HSGAC regarding border security
Date:	2017/04/05 18:59:31
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Please find attached and appended below the *Bloomberg Government* transcription of the following hearing held Wednesday, April 05, 2017:

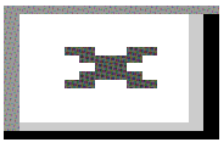
"Improving Border Security and Public Safety"

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Sole Witness: **DHS Secretary** John F. Kelly

9:30 a.m., 342 Dirksen WEBCAST

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JOHNSON: This hearing will come to order. I'd like to welcome the secretary of homeland security, General Kelly. We appreciate you coming and taking time and your thoughtful testimony, and we're looking forward to oral testimony and your answers to what should be a number of pretty interesting questions. Members of this committee, this should come as no surprise, the security of our borders been a top priority of -- of this committee.

In November 2015 after about 13 years and three roundtables, we did publish a report, "The State of America's Border Security" -- which by the way, we've got a bunch of copies so any -- any new members or old members who didn't get a copy, I'd -- I'd be happy to give you one. We've learned an awful lot and I would ask that my opening statement be entered into the record. I ask consent for that.

MCCASKILL: Without objection.

JOHNSON: Which I'll take silence as a consent, thanks. But what I would like to do is read some of the findings out of that opening statement as well as just some of the things we've learned. Just kind of bullet points.

First and foremost what we've learned during our -- this is going to be our 23rd hearing on various aspects of border security. First finding, our borders are not secure. Number two -- and we've mentioned this in yesterday's hearing -- America's sensational (ph) demand for drugs is one root cause, perhaps the root cause for bringing the (ph) achievement of a secure border. In order to secure our borders -- we heard this yesterday in -- in testimony on -- on fencing walls --agents need full situation awareness, which includes the ability to see on the other side of the border. This can be achieved with appropriate fencing and technology.

We had a hearing on November of last year. We had the former heads of border patrol and deputy border patrol, and they said that fencing works and we need more of it. We found out the last week in a hearing from the front lines, hiring is challenge and personal issues must be addressed, we're working with the secretary and his -- his deputy to try and address that -- really based off Senator Heitkamp's comments, in (ph) one hearing where she said, this is insane, this is crazy, and there are some insane and crazy

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policies which we want to work with you to get those addressed and fixed right away so you can actually staff up to provide the manpower element of securing our border. Points of entry must not be forgotten. The majority of drugs in our country are through our points of entry and that's something I'd like to talk about. One difficult hearing to have was victims of an unsecured border, victims of not enforcing our -- our immigration laws.

So the truth is tragedies have occurs as a result of our unsecure borders; tragedies that could've been prevented. Going down another list, not on my opening statement, drug cartels and coyotes use minors to avoid prosecution. Unaccompanied children have been traffic into sex trade and involuntary servitude. Drug cartels are as, if not more, brutal and depraved then ISIS. Aerostats, you know good technology but as we found out about on our -- one of our trip down the border, they're not real good in wind, and so in certain areas they can only operate about 40 percent of the time. We had an incredibly interesting hearing and this is something I'm a big supporter of, the quadruple or quintuple use of dogs because no technology can beat the nose of a dog.

Brooks County, one of our trip, we found out that the 435 deaths of people who -- who have cross country illegally occurred just in the last five years. It's a very dangerous journey, we treat -- need to try to disincentivize people from -- from making that dangerous journey. Drug use is not a victimless crime. It has given rise drug cartels. Those drug cartels traffic little girls; and we were down in Guatemala, we went one of those shelters. I remember Senator Heitkamp, Senator Carper, Senator Peters,

I think the average age is 14 so it's not a victimless crime. I think we all realize that but unfortunately we need to understand the responsibility we bear because of our insatiable demand for drugs so that's just a list, I don't want to keep droning on here but we've learned an awful lot in 22 hearings, I think we're going to learn a lot more today and as Senator McCaskill said I think in yesterday's hearing, I don't think there's one United States senator who doesn't believe we need a secure border.

So let's start there with that area of agreement. We share that goal, we want to secure our border, we want to keep the folks that we represent in our states, we want to keep them safe and secure. Now we got to figure out the details. And so again, I want to welcome General Kelly and I'll also turn it over to Senator McCaskill.

MCCASKILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Kelly, thank you so much for being here today. We are cognizant of the demands on your time and part of our goal, and the chairman and I agree on this, is trying to be careful about what we ask for and how much we ask for but we've got to ask for stuff because our job is oversight. But we're aware that you're being pulled a lot of different ways.

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That's why we look forward to you getting a full team in place so we can begin to have some of the people in charge in your operation come and answer some of these difficult policy and oversight questions. You and I have worked together on the armed services committee, I have -- I'm very -- I'm a fan of how you have served as a Marine and a general and no one has -- can question the sacrifices you made for our nation.

Ever since your confirmation, I have considered you a voice of reason within the administration. You have displayed throughout your career a willingness to speak truth to power, to say "no" rather than nodding, and have made your decisions based on the facts not political expediency. Those characteristics are needed now more than ever. I am counting on you to speak truth to this administration and to the president but I'm also asking you to speak to us and the American people.

Even though it may not seem like it, we are now three months into the new administration. I know that you want time to settle in and you need help to do your job. We're pleased that we confirmed Elaine Duke yesterday. I think she will be a terrific addition to your department. And by the way, I secured her vote tally, the original. I was going to bring it this morning and I forgot but I'll make sure I get that to her so she can have it to frame for her office.

We have two executive orders that ban travel from Muslim-majority nations. The first was implemented without notice and caused chaos at our nation's airports. Both have come under immediate constitutional scrutiny by the courts. The Department has overhauled its interior enforcement in the words of the White House to, quote, "take the shackles off" immigration and customs enforcement and the border patrol.

You have ordered the department to, quote, "immediately begin planning design, construction, and maintenance of a wall along the border." Even though Missouri isn't on the border, my state is directly affected by it. The drugs that get through the Mexican border have a huge impact on the opioid crisis that is gripping my state and the entire nation.

It is causing death and destruction to families all over the United States. I know you share my concern about drugs coming over the border but I am deeply concerned that all of the rhetoric and all of the budget requests have focused on the border and not the ports of entry, that there is no plan to increase resources at the ports of entry which we know, along with the mail, is the primary place that drugs are coming into our country.

I certainly hope that we have a chance to address that today. Away from the border, I'm concerned about the Secret Service and the unprecedented challenge of protecting the president and his family at numerous locations; the White House, Trump Tower, and Mar-a-Lago as well as the international travel by the president's sons.

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In the meantime, the Secret Service is reviewing incidents that have threatened the physical security of the White House including a case in March where a fence-jumper was able to elude security and roam the grounds for 15 minutes. I'm deeply concerned that the Secret Service is being stretched to its breaking point. And just yesterday, I read news reports that the extreme vetting procedures that the president has ordered could force visa applicants from places like Australia and Japan and the United Kingdom to disclose not only all the information on their mobile phones, social media passwords, financial Records even to answer questions about their beliefs.

I've got to tell you, if my family was traveling United Kingdom and they told me that we would have to answer questions about my beliefs in the country, we would not go. And I have a hard time imagining countries would see us as their friends. I think this has a profound impact on our standing in the world, a profound impact on the nature of our alliances around the world, and a profound impact on our national security.

And I will ask questions about that today I indicated to you in our conversation yesterday because I think we are doing things that in no way as a former prosecutor trips up the bad guys. That changes our image forever in the eyes of the world; permanent and irrefutable harm occurring. Secretary Kelly, we have been trying to ask questions about policies and problems like these to your department and there have been times it's been very difficult to get answers.

willing to do a reset and check that off as you not having all hands on deck, but going forward, I hope that together, the chairman and I can work to make sure that we have witnesses from the Department of Homeland Security answer some of the questions that need to be answered. And frankly, I think it works for the benefit of your department, because if you're not here explaining, then assumptions can be made that sometimes are unfair. So going forward I hope that we have a new beginning as it relates to not only getting questions answered, but also having witnesses at hearings. I'm glad you're here today, there's a lot of important issues before us, and I've got a lot of questions. I hope we can count on you and that your department be willing to answer them going forward. Thank you very much.

JOHNSON: Senator McCaskill, would point out General Kelly has already made himself available for a security briefing and now he's here already in early April. So I certainly appreciate his willingness to -- to testify. Secretary -- General Kelly, we do have a tradition in this committee to swear in witnesses, so if you'll please rise your right-hand. Do you swear the testimony you will give before this committee will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you, God? Please be seated.

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Secretary John F. Kelly, General Kelly was confirmed to be the 5th secretary of Homeland Security on January 20, 2017. He previously served as a United States Marine Corps general and commander of the United States Southern Command. Less than a year after retiring from the Marine Corps, Secretary Kelly once again answered the call to serve nation and the American people by leading the department homeland security. General, we thank you for your service past, present and future, and look forward to your testimony.

KELLY: Thank you, Chairman and certainly Ranking Member McCaskill, all of the members of the committee. It's really an honor to be here. I will make myself available any time by phone, by drop- in. just recently I met with -- just yesterday with the entire Hispanic Caucus on the House side. We prided that with the entire Democratic caucus on the House side. I met with the Democratic caucus on this side last week, and I think I'm scheduled to speak with the Republicans. So anytime, anyplace, happy to do it, just a little notice.

Since I've respectfully taken on this assignment nearly three months ago, I have learned two very important lessons vis-a-vis the Department of Homeland Security and the defense of the homeland. The first is that the men and women of my department are incredibly talented and devoted public servants who serve the nation in very special ways.

In particular of those uphold the laws this institution, the Congress, passes by way the democratic process. It goes without saying the United States Coast Guard, supremely effective in their lane. One of the five military services of our country, they just happen to be lucky enough to be in the Department of Homeland Security.

Then there is the incredibly dedicated Immigration Customs Enforcement – the ICE agents -- who have taken on the task of enforcing again, the laws you, have passed, and they do that in the interior of our country. They do it humanely, professionally, and always according to the law. The ICE team also includes the amazingly effective investigators of Homeland Security Investigations, HSI, who are second to none in their investigative effectiveness.

Then there are the professionals of the Customs and Border Protection, the CBP, who are among many other functions are the first and -- and last line of defense, depending how you look at it, doing the essential and often dangerous work of defending the borders. They're out there day and night, 24/7 suffering the heat of an Arizona summer or the deadly cold of a Montana winter. Third are another group, the Secret Service as you mentioned, Senator McCaskill. I want to highlight them, both the agents as well as the uniformed force.

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They routinely work and are overworked to protect not only U.S. government officials but foreign dignitaries as well. They're amazing public servants dedicated to taking a bullet and giving their life for people that they don't even know. Then there's the TSA who ensure the security of, among other things, the traveling public, aviation- traveling public.

TSA enjoys little credit as the work they've been ordered to do and complete by the laws of this nation bring them in direct contact with a public that has little tolerance for minor inconveniences. Again, all of this required by the law. This same public forgets that the alternative to what we -- the TSA does at our airports is possibly dying in a fireball falling from 30,000 feet.

They're heroes, they do their work effectively, and they work very, very hard at improving their performance. The second lesson I've come to realize is that what homeland security means -- we must no longer think about the defense of the nation in terms of defense and nondefense initiatives and funding. In the world in which we live and the relentless and accumulating threats directed against our nation and our way of life, we must adjust our thinking to think about security and non-security which requires an increased melding of the thinking of the departments of defense and homeland security.

Secretary Mattis and his superb team fight the away game. They do it effectively every day. The quality of the equally superb men and women of homeland security that I'm in charge of fight the home game. The defense of the homeland starts with allies and partners willing to fight the fight in places like Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan while standing ready in Europe, Asia, and South Asia.

Closer to home and winning the home game is all about increasing the partnership with willing and reliable friends like Colombia, Mexico, Canada, indeed, all of the nations of this hemisphere and around the globe. Securing a nation's border is the primary responsibility of any sovereign nation. To those of us who serve the nation as part of DHS, this is nonnegotiable and sacred.

Yet for a decade, the federal government in spite of passing one law after another to do just that has not lived up to its promise to the American people. President Trump in the early days of his administration issued executive orders and focused interest on this very issue and tasked me to accomplish it. Various executive orders have been put out there, some of them effectively, some of them not so effectively.

But all of them worth adhering to once the courts finish with their rulings. But what's happened in the last 90 days or so? We've seen an absolutely amazing drop in the number of migrants coming out of Central America that are taking that terribly

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dangerous route from Central America into the United States. In particular, we've seen a dramatic reduction in the number of families and the number of children that are in that pipeline.

It won't last -- it won't last unless we do something again to secure the border; the wall and our physical barrier, something to secure our border. You all know that we're looking at that. In fact I think the proposals closed out yesterday, what it'll look like, how tall it will be, how thick it will be, what color it will be, is yet to be determined. All we know is that physical barriers do work if they're put in the right places.

And of course I've already posed (ph) the men and women that work the border, CBP, they know exactly where they want wall and they know exactly how long the wall should be in their sector. They're also quick to point out that if they can't have a wall from sea to shining sea that at least give them the wall -- the physical barrier, the technology that will do the job for them in the locations where they've identified to me, and we'll do that.

Before I conclude, I'd like to highlight the committee and the American people total (ph) relentless threat that thankfully we have stayed probably two or three steps ahead of over the years. I thought of those would do us harm; primarily operating out of the Middle East, and they are unyielding in their attempt to destroy commercial passenger aircraft in flight. In response to this thread, DHS personnel primarily from TSA and CBP are deployed in near thousands overseas working with airports, air carriers and intelligence and law enforcement partners to deny the terrorists attempt to kill innocent in the largest numbers possible to make some sick statement.

As they say we, the CIA, NSA, FBI, DNI, DOD, DOI, DOJ, DOT, and DHS and all of our international partners have been successful thus far. I recently made several decisions that added additional baggage protocols at a number of foreign airports to fly -- fly flights directly to the United States. This decision was not -- I repeat, not about the Muslim religion, anyone's skin color or ethnicity, but to impact the bottom line of foreign air carriers to the benefit of U.S. air carriers.

My decisions were based entirely on saving lives and protecting the homeland. If we cannot get our arms around the current threat, you can expect additional protocol adjustments in the very near future. I'll end by saying me thank you so very much for the support you gave Elaine Duke. The fact that she is now confirmed -- and with any kind of luck, I'll return to my building after this meeting -- or after this committee swear her in and put a very, very good heavy pat on her back, fill it up with a lot of rocks and make the Department of Homeland Security better than it already is. So with that Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, I will standby for questions.

JOHNSON: She ought to be look forward to that.

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(LAUGHTER)

General Kelly, let me start. You talked about the -- the study on the board -- boarder barriers. Can you just tell me the -- a little more detailed the status of that, as well as any surprises that you've -- in terms of initial results of that?

KELLY: Sir, we know that a physical barrier works. It's -- the -- the parts of the border that have physical barrier now, roughly 650 miles built some years ago. In those sectors, it works. There are other places along the border -- and again that the professionals in the -- in the CBP, if you walk the terrain (ph), and I know some of you have, will tell you, you know boss, if you can give me 27 more miles here, 16 more miles here, I don't really care about the other 140 miles I'm responsible for, but I need something that works, and to deflect the flow of people, primarily bad actors, people in -- not all of whom are bad actors -- people who are coming United States for various reasons, to deflect them away from -- primarily deflect away from the cities, the idea with the coyotes in the traffickers to get them as close to a city crossovers -- as close to a city as possible, get them into the city where they disappear.

So if you can deflect them away from the city, then it's easier to pick them up and return them, whether they're Mexican or whatever. It's actually safer in many ways. Last year I think is somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,500 near-death individuals were saved by CBP primarily out in the -- out in the desert, and unfortunately unknown specific numbers, but some several hundred lost their lives in this attempt to get across the border and that's on our border.

It's no telling how many in addition to the -- to the rapes and the assaults and the abuse that they take in the network flowing up through Mexico. Not done by the Mexicans but by the Coyotes, the traffickers. There's no way to tell how many of those people lose their lives. But the point is, very, very dangerous trip. The barriers work, technology also works but all of it doesn't work at all unless you have men and women who are willing to patrol the border, develop relationships which they do with their Mexican counterparts directly across the border.

But that's where we are right now. There's no way I can give the committee an estimate of how much this will cost. I mean, I don't know what it will be made of, I don't know how high it will be, I don't know if it's going to have solar panels on each side and what the one side's going to look like and how it's going to be painted, have no idea. So I can't give you any type of an estimate.

I will say this, that it's unlikely that we will build a wall or physical barrier from sea to shining sea but it is very likely, I'm committed to putting it where the men and women say we should put it.

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JOHNSON: In your written testimony, you -- the quote is, you're going to implement a full complement of solutions to meet border security requirements and that's technology, that's manpower, that's going to be physical barriers. But my assumption is you're going to target kind of a step by step basis and put walls and fencing in top priority areas where your border agents are telling you, correct?
KELLY: You're exactly right, Senator.
JOHNSON: We had a hearing last week from the front lines with the heads of the unions from Border Patrol and OFO and ICE. There were some real problems. The problem -- the use of polygraphs, just way too high of rejection rates. Pay parity, I mean Border Patrol saying once you go try and hire 10,000 ICE agents, they're just going to teal them from border patrol because of the lack of parity.
Just work schedules. From OFO talking about how agents are working multiple days in a row 16 hour shifts. So can you just kind of address what you're finding out? We're going to try and do a very cooperative process with you, with the White House, bipartisan -- nonpartisan basis really and try and give -- produce the oversight same time you're enacting the solutions.
But can you just kind of address those personnel issues?
KELLY: Yes sir. I mean this is going to be kind of a cinder block sized rock in Secretary Duke's pack. One of the things I will turn -- one of the things my good friend Jay Johnson started long before I obviously took this job was this unity of effort issue, to look at all of the department that is still a fairly broken up and disparate organization, to look at all of the department, where it makes sense, start to unify things like acquisition, like -- like pay.
Even though it's my understanding that some of the pay problems in a couple of the unions, one of the union anyways was actually negotiated that way by the union. It didn't turn out so well as I'm informed. So what we're going to do is turn that over to Elaine and look at all of the -- the Secret Service falls into the same category of another kind of different pay scale and there's a better way to do this so that unity of effort, we'll -- we're going to really breathe some life into it.
Jay started it, great thing. We're really going to finish it over the next year or so or more but find ways to do exactly what the Senate is suggesting. That is come up with better pay systems, better benefits. You know, one of the things the CBP folks tend to migrate into ICE frequently is because they might be from, I don't know, the great state of Missouri and they're working on the border in Arizona and that's OK for a few years but they want to get maybe back home.

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So we'll look at that too but that requires a lot of detail work and I think -- I don't know what the exact number is in terms of a larger force, CBP particularly, or ICE for that matter. And for sure, Secret Service needs to be bigger, for sure they need to be bigger. They are carrying a load that is almost crushing the individual agent and we're going to fix that.

But to your point, sir, we're going to take -- we'll take on all of that and improve it with your help.

JOHNSON: OK, yes. We'll want to work with you on that. I come from a manufacturing background, continuous shift operation. You need four shifts and I'd love to work with you and the agencies design a proper ship that doesn't overburden the -- the -- the personnel.

Just real quick because you did raise this issue about the device searches. In -- in fiscal year 2015, under the Obama administration, there were 8,500 devices searched, and they realized this is actually pretty effective. So in 2016, they searched 23,877 devices. Can you just kind of talk about what -- I think an (ph) article -- I think a lot of concern about that. Can you just relay (ph) some of those concerns and talk about really effectiveness of why we should be doing this?

KELLY: There's a -- roughly a million people a day come into United States, either by land or by aviation. You know, that million -- that tiny half of -- one half of 1 percent might have their devices looked at. Generally speaking, these would be foreigners anyways. In fact, in almost every case, they'd be -- a large percentage would be foreigners. But it's the normal process of coming into the country.

And so what do they -- what do they look for? Frankly, a couple of examples, I would give you is, it's one of the ways they find these pedophiles when they -- and the -- and the CBP people, of course are interviewing travelers entering the United States will send people to secondary (ph) for whatever reason -- and there a million of (ph) reasons they do this, will send people to secondary (ph). Usually they're there for a short period of time. It might be to do -- their passports look out of -- out of sync or something like that; their stories don't match what the passport says. There's a -- there's a million of (ph) reasons.

But some of those reasons revolve around men who are coming from certain parts of the globe that -- that -- what do they call it? Sexual tourism, I think -- pedophiles anyway. So that's one -- one way we catch them. We go on, we look at their -- at their device, and it's filled with child porn. That's one thing.

Recently, we had a -- and again, a couple of examples, we had an individual traveling here from a Middle Eastern country during the process. The profiling if you will, there

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was something not quite right about him matching up with what he was telling about his -- his past -- where he had come from, his passport. So we put him in secondary. They looked -- ran his -- his contact numbers out of his telephone, and he was in contact with several -- I won't go into it too deeply -- but several well-known terrorist traffickers and organizers in the Middle East.

They then looked at the pictures and saw a full display of -- of you know gay men being thrown off of roofs and people being beheaded and all that. Now, we had no reason to hold him because he was not in any database, so we sent him back. That I think appeared shortly after that in a newspaper about how we were focusing on a Muslim male, and we did it because he was a Muslim and from the Arab part of the world.

But the point is, there are reasons for it. But to Senator McCaskill's concerns, this is not routine. It's done in a very small number of cases. It won't be done routinely for people that are coming here from -- from -- from anywhere -- it won't be done routinely from anywhere. But if there's a reason to do it, we will in fact do it. But whether it's France, Britain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, or Somalia, I won't be routinely done at the port of entry.

JOHNSON: Thank you, general. Senator McCaskill?

MCCASKILL: General, is the president OK with fencing instead of a wall?

KELLY: The president has told me "Kelly, go do it." I -- we need to protect the southwest border in any way that that makes sense.

MCCASKILL: So you -- he understands...

KELLY: ...I have a lot of elbow room.

MCCASKILL: So he knows that we're not going to build a concrete wall -- a 2,000 mile concrete wall? The president knows that, right?

KELLY: The president knows that I'm looking at every variation on the theme and I have no doubt when I go back to him and say "you know, boss, wall makes sense here, fencing -- high-tech fencing makes sense over here, technology makes sense over here," I have no doubt that he will go tell me to do it.

MCCASKILL: And can you provide to the committee the request by the border chiefs for how many miles they're requesting of barrier?

KELLY: Can I -- yes ma'am.

MCCASKILL: Yes. I mean you're going to ask every border chief for their sector...

KELLY: ...Right.

MCCASKILL: How many miles do you need and where?

KELLY: Exactly right.

MCCASKILL: And are you also going to ask them for their technology requests?

KELLY: All of that will be part of -- I mean their input is absolute to what we're doing.

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MCCASKILL: Right. Can we get those requests as soon as you receive them?
KELLY: Absolutely.
MCCASKILL: Because I think it's really important -- the sooner we stop this, you know, we're going to build a wall from sea to shining sea and the Mexicans are going to pay for it, it's embarrassing. It's not going to happen, everybody in Congress knows it's not going to happen. Every Republican knows it, every Democrat knows it. It appears the only person who won't say it out loud is the president of the United States.
And it's embarrassing. I don't understand it. I mean, it makes no sense and frankly the money we reprogrammed for the -- the prototypes, the solicitation says no technology insertion is even a requirement of the prototype and you know situational awareness is going to be key for these border chiefs. They -- it does no good to build a big wall if they can't see over it because they aren't able to respond to the ladder or to some kind of breach.
And so I just -- it's just frustrating to me. You get it, we all get it, but the president is so stubborn and won't say to the American people "we're going to use your money wisely and we're going to protect the border in a way that makes sense. And by the way, Mexico is not going to pay for it." So I urge you to speak truth to power in that regard. The sooner the president gets some credibility on this, I think the better off we all are and I think it would make your job much easier.
That's my two cents worth. And by the way, you get a lot of bipartisan support immediately for budget requests that are based on sound ideas about securing the border. We're not -- I mean I think the majority of the Senate, and I can't speak to the House, is not going to sign a blank check for a wall that we know is never going to be built. So the sooner we all get honest about this, I think the better off we are.
So the extreme vetting, I get what you're saying that it will be applied to very few people but if it is the policy of our country to increase the questions asked for visa applications all over the world, and to expose the 38 visa waiver countries to this possibility, it has a dramatic impact. And you've got to understand, Secretary Kelly, that if they know we're going to look at their phones -- I'm talking about bad guys.
I've had some experience with bad guys. If they know we're going to look at their phones and we know we're going to ask them questions about their ideology, they're going to get rid of their phones and guess what they're going to do on ideology? They're going to lie. Are we going to use polygraphs?
KELLY: That would be -- we couldn't do that for all of the people that we currently put into secondary, no but your point's well taken in terms of if we were doing these things routinely but there's -- there's databases we look at that bring us to cause to bring

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someone into secondary, travel patterns -- I'd prefer not to go into it but travel patterns tell us a lot about a person.
And that would get someone to go into secondary. But generally speaking, the average tourist coming into the United States is not going to have their -- we're not going to ask them...
MCCASKILL: ...So we're going to tell them we might -- we're going to tell them we might ask them about what they -- I think the things that -- was the article accurate that they're going to be asked how applicants view the treatment of women in society, whether they value the sanctity of human life and who they view as a legitimate target in military operation?
Are we going to explain to all of our friends across the world that they could be questioned like that if they come into the United States?
KELLY: I wouldn't say those would be questions we would ask.
MCCASKILL: So this article is incorrect that these are what -- this is what's being considered?
KELLY: Which article is it?
MCCASKILL: This is the "Wall Street Journal" article yesterday that said visitors to the U.S. could be forced to provide cell phone contacts, social media passwords, and answer questions about their ideology according to Trump administration officials.
KELLY: I don't -- those questions you've indicated are not questions that I think would be, you know, used in the secondary kind of questioning. As far -- once again, I go back to very, very small numbers. We do -- it is effective to catch people -- you know, they come in -- they're coming in the country but they're not really here yet so if they don't want to cooperate, they can go back.
MCCASKILL: But aren't we telling them what they need to do to get in? I mean, that's what's weird here. It seems to me we are signaling something that's very un-American to the rest of the world by announcing this policy. Every ambassador in Washington read this article in the Wall Street Journal yesterday and every ambassador in Washington called back to their country and said, listen to this, they're going to start asking people for their social media password and about their ideology in America. That is incredibly damaging, and all the bad guys are going to like just lie. I don't get how get we get anything out of it. It's that damaged (ph).
KELLY: As they say, very small numbers -- that we will go to those questions or requests social media -- and I'm talking really -- I'm talking right now about at our airports and ports of entry. We'll -- we'll go in that direction when the professionals at the

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counter decide that there's a reason going to in the direction. But the vast majority people will not -- will not be questioned in that way.
It's just like the vast majority of people that come into the country, foreigners, and for that matter, American citizens, we don't go into their luggage and inspected their luggage. Is the same kind of thing? We will do it when we think there's a reason to do it.
MCCASKILL: Well, I'm -- as you can tell, my hair is on fire about this. I am really upset that America would be saying this to the world. and if -- if needs a classified briefing in terms of understanding better what the plans are and who would be pulled, and if somebody can explain to me how we get terrorists when they know all they've got to do is lie to the questions and buy a burner before they come to America...
KELLY: I think you know, senator, this is nothing new. We've been doing this for -- to the best of my knowledge, my staff tells me for a number of years.
MCCASKILL: We have never announced that it is the policy of America that all foreign visitors to our country could be subjected to this kind of questioning and this kind in intrusion.
KELLY: Well, questioning again, I'm not aware the questions you -- the questions you -- you recited are not questions that I'm familiar with at all and I don't...
MCCASKILL: That's what I want to get to the bottom of. And I will just tell you, Americans would never put up with this in other countries. If -- if -- if all of these countries sent a signal that if you come to our country -- can you imagine a U.S. senator saying, oh yeah, well lets go to Japan and they're going to take my phone for three days if they feel like it, and they're going to ask for my social media password, or I can't go in. Or they're going to ask me questions of my -- my ideology.
I mean, can you imagine anybody in America wanting to go there? And we don't want to send that signal. That's what the essence of my questions, secretary. And if you can follow up with us about how this is going to be applied and clarify it to the world that we welcome our friends to America, I think that would be very helpful.
KELLY: Again, I'll just thank you, Senator McCaskill. I'll just remind you, in fiscal year, 2016, 24,000 devices were searched. So this is -- this is not new. I think its being somewhat blown out of proportion. Senator...
(CROSSTALK)
KELLY: ... chairman, if I can add to that, and of the ones that were searched, very, very small percentage were actually gone into forensically, if you will. It's essentially, they turn it on, and we'd like to see the pictures. And again, if we find child pornography, we find -- we find really grizzly photographs of terrorists' acts, that's the kind -- we -- we're

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not -- we're not sending these to -- we could if we want to, and in small numbers we do, but we don't send them to a place to be forensically taken apart...
JOHNSON: And unfortunately publicizing this, does make it less effective, unfortunately. Senator Hoeven has graciously allowed the chairman or Armed Services to slide ahead of him. So, Senator McCain?
MCCAIN: Thanks, Senator Hoeven. You know what sets my hair on fire? The fact that we know that coming out of Raqqa are people that have been directed to come and get into the United States of America and commit acts or terror. Isn't that true? It sets my hair on fire.
KELLY: It's absolutely, sir (ph).
MCCAIN: Does it set your hair on fire that there are now -- we know published reports, their efforts at taking these devices and planning explosives and committing acts of terror with this technology? Does that set your hair on fire?
KELLY: It does, Senator.
MCCAIN: And they are developing technology right now to put -- one of the reasons why there's been some of the band on what can be brought on an airliner sets my hair on fire right now. So I'm really worried about offending every ambassador in Washington. That's what always has been one of my greatest concerns, is how they feel and I certainly wouldn't want to offend their feelings. But the fact is that there are people being trained in Raqqa today that are leaving Raqqah and trying to get the United States and use various devices to commit acts of terror in the United States of America. True?
KELLY: It is true.
MCCAIN: Thank you. So maybe we ought to put a little perspective on this in our hysteria.
KELLY: If I could add to it...
MCCAIN: ...Go ahead.
KELLY: Senator, we know there's somewhere in the neighborhood of 10,000 European citizens who are in the fight, in the caliphate, Iraq and Syria. And as that caliphate is being reduced, those individual fighters are being encouraged to return to Europe and do terrorist- type things. Now in many cases, because of the nature of Europe and the borders and whatnot -- lack of borders, in many cases the countries where they're citizens don't know that they've been out of the country fighting in Syria.
To the point of visa waiver countries, so we're in a position now where someone who's in Raqqah today returns to pick a country and basically can get on -- he's not in any database and can get on an airplane and fly here under the visa waiver program and be

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in the United States. That doesn't keep me up at night too much but it does keep me up so we're looking at visa waiver.
We're looking at all kinds of ways that to keep these people out...
MCCAIN: ...I want to make sure that -- I want to make sure that we are not restricted from looking at anybody's electronic device given the public information that we know of their attempts at trying to develop these capabilities in order to set off bombs. Also, by the way, it does -- I'll tell you what does set my hair on fire, and that is that we now have Phoenix, Arizona as the major distribution point for Mexican manufactured heroin coming in this country across the Sonora border. Is that true?
KELLY: It is true, Senator.
MCCAIN: And that it's killing people all over America including some governors in Northeast and Midwestern states are saying its an epidemic, particularly a group of Americans that I care about, and that's older white males. Is that right?
KELLY: It's absolutely right.
MCCAIN: OK. So we need to do one hell of a lot better job on this drug trafficking and human trafficking that's coming across our border. And I'm happy to tell you that I hear from my friends in the Border Patrol who say their morale has gone up now that we have your kind of leadership. By the way, I'm not sure you should have taken all that bullet for the travel ban but that's a subject for another day.
But what are you going to do about -- can you -- can you interpret a wall -- a wall, the word wall, as being drones, towers, fences, tunnel -- attempts at detecting using technology to detect tunnels, to have really what is an electronic wall plus the personnel? Could that -- could that fit the definition of a wall and maybe stop this flood of Mexican manufactured heroin that's flooding into this country and killing people at a very great rate including the fentanyl which is particularly lethal?
KELLY: Yes sir. In my view, the wall is all of that. We -- just before you came in, we had this discussion. In my view, the wall is all of that.
MCCAIN: So if we interpret the wall as that, I think most Americans would support it.
MCCASKILL: True.
MCCAIN: But however, we've got a problem with Mexico. Right now there's a lot of anti-American sentiment in Mexico. If the election were tomorrow in Mexico, you would probably get a left wing, anti- American president of Mexico. That can't be good for America.
KELLY: It would not be good for America or for Mexico.

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MCCAIN: OK. And then finally would you just tell us a little bit about -- I thank the indulgence of my colleagues, what kind of cooperation are you getting from the Mexican authorities and what kind of cooperation are you not getting?
KELLY: We're getting a huge amount of cooperation from the Mexicans. Senator, I go back to my time when I was in uniform at SOUTHCOM. Very, very good relationship with the Mexicans both on their southern border where they stopped 160,000 illegal immigrants from Central America last year all the way up to the -- to the northern border. The relationship between the local authorities on our side of the border is pretty good with the local authorities on the other side.
I count some of the -- certainly the -- the head of the Army and the Navy as friends. I was just -- I'll be -- I was there about a month and half ago, had a great meeting all of -- all the way up through with the president.
MCCAIN: How serious is corruption?
KELLY: Corruption is very, very widespread. And it's much -- much of that is due to the -- the profits that come out of the drug use in the United States. There's no doubt about it, corruption is widespread. They're trying to get after that, it's a dangerous place because of the corruption and the trafficking; most of it fueled by U.S. drug consumption.
MCCAIN: Well, the heartbreaking one to me is the human trafficking, Mr. Secretary, and I wish all Americans were aware of how terrible this situation is. These young girls being transported up, hooked on drugs and its -- its -- its so terrible. A lot of times you don't like to think about it. How -- how high is that on your priority list?
KELLY: It's very, very high. In fact, the good news is for really the fifth month in a row, but certainly the second big month in a row, the movement of the human -- the human trafficking of people in general is down significantly. And -- and to your point, and the young girls in particular in the family units down even more significantly. And that is all as a result of what we've started to do on the border and frankly my working personally with Central Americans, presidents, attorneys general, religious leaders and with our -- our relationship with -- with Mexico.
MCCAIN: Well, the next time you do a travel ban, how about thinking it through? Thank you.
JOHNSON: Senator Hoeven?
HOEVEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. General Kelly, good to see you again, thank you for being here. Thanks for the important work you're doing. In terms of the mix (ph), we -- we're talking about infrastructure, we're talking about technology, we're talking about people -- how to make sure you have the right mix as you put that together?

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KELLY: On the wall? Really, you know, really we have to rely on the folks that work the border. there are -- the younger agents are down there the (inaudible) work every day, but some of the more senior agents, they know the border in their sector better than -- you know, better than anyone, and they can tell us -- and we'll do that study.
HOEVEN: So I'm a member of the Appropriations Committee for all Homeland Security, and we're putting together you know, your appropriation for FY'17 and then of course we'll work on '18. so it's very important that we have the resources, and that when we talk about building a wall, as you define, that wall is not only wall itself and fencing, but it's also technology and people. It's very important that we have that funding in your appropriation bill for FY'17, isn't it, to secure the country? That it -- that would be an incredibly important priority for you, wouldn't it?
KELLY: It is, yes sir.
HOEVEN: OK, thank you. Second thing is metrics. What metrics are most important? You provided us with some metrics here? We appreciate that, it's encouraging. It shows that you are having success. Tell -- tell us what of the most important metrics that we need to be cognizant of, you know, how do we use them to make sure that the American people understand what's going on, on the border and you know, that we are getting to a more secure border?
KELLY: I think certainly the metrics are people that don't cross into the United States illegally. Another metric would be the amount of -- and it mostly comes through the -- the ports of entry, which is another discussion that we can surely have here. But the amount of drugs that come through -- but as I said so many times when I was in the United States Southern command, once the drugs get the Mexico -- Central America, Mexico, they're essentially in unless we do something about the border.
Now, I think the senator knows virtually all of the heroine consumed in the United States is produced in Mexico from Poppy to laboratory to packaging to in the United States. All of the cocaine that we consume comes up the same way. Much of the methamphetamine comes up the same way and an awful lot of opiate pills that are counterfeit -- produced --counterfeit pills come up through that. Fentanyl, largely through Mexico, but now increasingly directly from China to the United States by -- by the U.S. mail. It's an unending struggle, it's -- but it really does go back to -- and I was just in a meeting last week or early this week -- last week now with the president and a number of people to get after this drug -- drug consumption in the United States. One of the first conversations I had with Then-Candidate Trump was when he brought up to me the issue of securing the southern border.

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I said "you know, boss, Mr. Trump, there's no way we're going to do that unless we get after drug consumption in the United States. And I don't mean arresting more African-American guys and throwing them in jail for -- I mean, no kidding, a comprehensive drug -- drug demand reduction" and Mr. Trump has taken that on and has put together a task force.

So from -- from rehab to law enforcement to try to stop the production in Mexico, all of that adds up to, we'll have a much more secure border if we -- if we can stop drug demand reduction -- or drug demand in the United States. And we never had -- some states have, some communities have, some organizations have tried but we've never had a comprehensive campaign against it.

HOEVEN: As we increasingly secure the southern border, won't that put more pressure on the northern border and other ports of entry?

KELLY: And other ports of entry, for sure. The beauty of the northern border is Canada. I mean, they are committed to say the least, they have a very -- very, very, very low rates of corruption. They have tremendous law enforcement and -- and our partnership with them just couldn't be stronger so that's the advantage. And I hope over time Mexico -- and again, the strains on the Mexican society, the violence, again, corruption, we can hope that that gets better, they're trying.

My relationship with -- in fact right after this, I'll meet with the -- with the -- again for about the fourth or fifth time with a good friend who is the foreign minister of Mexico. I just had the military leadership which play a different role in their society than our senior military people do. And my -- my HSI people, my CBP people, my ICE people are in Mexico in large numbers as are -- as is the FBI.

The collaboration's very, very good law enforcement. It's just not...

HOEVEN: ...You would -- but you would agree we need to do more on the northern border as well and what are those security measures? UAS for example, sensors, you know what are the priorities on the northern border for you?

KELLY: Well, right now there is not nearly the same level of cross-border crime and whatnot. We obviously need to watch it, one of the things the Canadians recently did was to allow visa -- non-visa -- Mexicans to travel to Canada without visas and we're seeing a little bit of increase in Mexicans coming illegally into the United States from the north.

We're working with them. I'm on the phone with my counterparts in places like Canada all the time but we obviously have to watch the threat. I mean if we were successful in drying up the production of heroin in say Mexico, probably impossible...

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HOEVEN: ...I'm not talking just drugs, I'm talking terrorism, I'm talking any -- you know, as you continue to secure the southern border, it's going to create pressure in other places and that's what I want to make sure we're taking the necessary steps on the northern border as well. And I would invite you -- at the Canada border station which is essentially Grand Forks, North Dakota, your border station, they have responsibility for 900 miles of border all the way from the Great Lakes through most of Montana.
And we're using everything from Predators, the Grand Forks Air Force Base there has Global Hawk. In fact we have UAS test site and the CBP station, they fly out of Grand Forks Air Force Base and I would invite you to come up and see the technology -- you talk about cooperation with the Canadians (inaudible) can also create -- use as an opportunity to build on some of that cooperation with the Canadians. Because you're talking 900 miles of border without a fence, we're going to have to continue to build those relations and that technology to do the job. And I hope you could come -- see what we're doing over here (ph).
KELLY: I'll do that, senator.
HOEVEN: Thank you, I appreciate it, general.
KELLY: Sure.
JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Hoeven. Senator Heitkamp?
HEITKAMP: Thank you. I didn't want to disappoint anyone, so I'm going to raise the Northern Border in the very beginning. Obviously the -- the law that was passed down requires that you meet a June deadline for telling us what the threats are and how we are going to secure the northern border. Can you tell me whether you're on target to meet that June deadline?
KELLY: We're -- we're always on target. I was just up in Seattle and met with the local law enforcement folks. I've been on the phone number times on -- on real ID with the -- with the governor up there. So we've got a little bit of a relationship; more importantly, I talked to my people that are responsible for that stretch from the Pacific inland for about 650 miles -- something like that. They have, again, great relations with the -- with their counterparts on -- on the other side of the border. The real strength is the databases...
HEITKAMP: So -- so we can expect a report in June which then we can react to in the next budgetary contrary, correct?
KELLY: Yes senator, yes.
HEITKAMP: OK. I just want to remind you that eight of the 15 senators actually represent the northern border, so we're going to be...
KELLY: It's got my attention, believe me. I love the northern border
(CROSSTALK)

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HEITKAMP: ... and obviously we would love to host you. I'm deeply concerned about personnel issues on the northern border and hope that whatever you are looking at in that study includes securing enough personnel to do the job and to meet the -- the challenges. I want to talk a little bit about Central America.

It's a -- it's a topic that I know you're well familiar with and it was one of, I think the great opportunity that we had given your position and South command -- command. And given the fact that you have so many great relationships, we continue to be challenged by the northern triangle countries. The -- the rate of murder and mayhem is unparalleled throughout the world, which is saying really something. We're -- we're looking at the alliance for progress as a way to kind of build that soft power, not just look at border security, but how can we in fact refugee in place.

It's my understanding that you're convening a conference in Miami. one of the concerns that I have is who's going all be at the table, because I think it's critically important that everyone be represented, whether it's NGOs, whether it's immigration groups, whether it's advocacy groups, that we all understand that we have a role in securing -- providing some security for those Central American countries. Can you tell me what the plan is and what you hope to accomplish in the Miami conference?

KELLY: Yes, Senator. First I would tell you that I am close to the Central Americans. I've been -- in the short period of time I've been in the job, I've been down to Guatemala. The president of Honduras was just up in my office, he's someone that I've worked closely with before, I'm going to Honduras soon, then to Mexico. Since I've been in this job, I met Mr. Tillerson there -- Secretary Tillerson there.

So I met all three from the Northern Tier countries; Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. All three of their Attorneys General came and we had great discussions, again, friends. Mexican -- go back to that Mr. De Lagre (ph) is in and out of Washington quite frequently. I plan another trip to Mexico so that's -- that's where we are in terms of what we're doing there.

Now when I briefed -- when I had discussions with Mr. Trump when he was still Mr. Trump, I talked to him about the issue again of drug -- drug use in the United States, drug trafficking, what that does to these countries. But some of the things – and I'll take a little credit, not much, but a little credit for this; some of the things when I was still on active duty Southern Command, some of the things we helped the Northern Tier countries implement have driven down -- now the death rates are still horrific.

HEITKAMP: So what do you hope to accomplish in Miami and...

KELLY: ...Economic -- both -- there'll be two day conference. One day will be economic. We've got certainly one of the real powers behind this is the Inter-American

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Development Bank. E.U. will be there, it's my understanding some European countries, obviously we will have -- I'm hoping to have secretary of commerce, secretary of treasury, I'll be there, the vice -- our vice president's coming down.
There will be businessmen and women. We -- I believe all three of the Central American presidents and their teams will be there for this. I've got the Canadian -- the Mexicans will co-host this.
HEITKAMP: What -- will you be reviewing the Alliance for Progress and whether that's been valuable and what changes we need to make as it relates to that commitment?
KELLY: The Alliance -- as you know, the Alliance for...
HEITKAMP: ... Prosperity, I mean (ph).
KELLY: Prosperity, right.
HEITKAMP: Excuse me.
KELLY: I could go into it if you want but I'll just say that I had a lot to do with organizing that with the three countries. They put their own money against it, we, you, the Congress has put money against it. The real thrust of this -- of this event in Miami in June -- mid June I think, will be outside investment as opposed to U.S. investment. Although outside private investment.
So that's what we are trying to -- that's what we will accomplish.
HEITKAMP: I think there's tons of folks who want to help out in the NGO community especially. And I think that -- it takes me to the kind of next topic which is why people are leaving Central America. And you know, I would say there's been a lot of confusion back and forth on what's going to happen to women coming to the border with children from Central American countries.
Just a quick yes or no, there's been reports that you are considering separating children from their mothers at the border and I want to know yes or no whether that's true.
KELLY: Can I give you more than a yes or no?
HEITKAMP: You can just a little bit.
KELLY: OK. Only -- only if the situation at that point in time requires it. You know, the mother -- if the mother is sick or addicted to drugs or whatever. In the same way we would do it here in the United States if we...
HEITKAMP: ...Yeah, so -- so if you thought the child was endangered...
KELLY: ...Not routinely. Sure.
HEITKAMP: That's -- that's the only circumstance to which you would separate?
KELLY: Can't -- can't imagine doing otherwise.
HEITKAMP: Yeah. I just want to -- I know a lot of people think that that might provide a deterrent and we have a number of people within the heartland alliance program and I'd

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ask that this letter -- and I know you get a lot of correspondence obviously sent to you March 8. But it's some comments from women who asked that this be...
JOHNSON: ...Without objection.
HEITKAMP: And I just want to read a couple of them because I think it's really important to understand what's driving people north. My faith was in God when I made the decision to leave. I had never heard of asylum, all I knew was that the United States was a place where people could be protected and safe.
I didn't -- I came to the United States, I didn't think about the policies, I was just considering that United States is a thing that could protect us from violence where we were living. I think you know almost better than anyone else who serves in this administration how horrific the conditions are and I appreciate your answer. No one could disagree that if a child is endangering you believe that, that there should be separation and that that would be a rare circumstance. Is that correct, general?
KELLY: That is correct.
HEITKAMP: Thank you, Secretary.
KELLY: That's a yes.
HEITKAMP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
JOHNSON: Senator Peters?
PETERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And it's good to see you, Secretary Kelly, it's good to have you here before the committee, appreciate your testimony and I also wanted to thank you again publicly for all coming to Detroit on my invitation and putting some time with the Muslim American/ Arab American community, Latino Hispanic community. And of course we had a wonderful opportunity to see firsthand one of the busiest border crossings in North America there from Detroit to Windsor into Canada, and appreciate your -- your interest and your involvement in that meeting.
But as -- as you know Secretary Kelly, there has been up appreciable uptick in hate crimes and crimes against our religious institutions across the country. Last month of Senator Portman and I let a letter that was signed by every single member of the Senate asking your department, the DOJ and FBI to take action against the rise in hate crimes against Jewish community centers, mosques and other religiously associated locations. And as you're aware it's so rare to have a letter signed by all 100 of us, this is how serious we take it. It's been about 29 days since the letter's been written to you, the attorney general and the FBI and was just wondering, when should we expect a response back to all my colleagues?
KELLY: It should have been a long time ago, I'll apologize and I'm on it. But I will tell you this, that I've added -- I've added our approach to this issue to add mosques and, you

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know, any religious building, church, whatever that might be affected by this. We do have some capability within the department to advise individuals that want to be advised about say the security precautions.
I think they told me -- my staff told me yesterday virtually all of the Jewish centers, large groups have taken that advice. We have teams that go out and travel and so we're very -- I don't know if any of the mosques have responded yet but as I say, add all religious communities to that, not just -- you know, I've told my people, let's just not talk one religion, let's just not talk terrorism for that matter.
How about we talk about white supremacists and things like that, so -- but I apologize for not getting back and I will get on that today.
PETERS: I appreciate that, Secretary, and I think it's obvious from your comments you do believe there is a legitimate fear of hate crimes...
KELLY: ...I do...
PETERS: ...In our communities they need to be concerned about. And given that, will you commit to continued support for programs that support vulnerable locations such as the nonprofit security grant program that your department runs?
KELLY: I will.
PETERS: Thank you. I appreciate it, secretary. As you know, Michigan has an extension of the Real ID enforcement allowing federal agencies to accept driver's licenses and identification cards from Michigan. It runs through October 10 of this year in 2017. What is the current status of Real ID implementation across the nation?
KELLY: As I know the senator knows, the Real ID law was passed by the Congress in 2005 and it's -- the real first big deadline is January -- this January coming, I think it's 22nd to where you'll have to have a appropriate Real ID -- approved Real ID or if you don't have that, something like a passport in order to fly domestically, internationally. The map -- and I addressed most of the -- of the governors of all of the states, 48 I think, of the states about three weeks ago.
And for those that are not compliant and is right now I think five that for sure aren't even really trying and that's their call, I mean I'm not criticizing them. But they're not really trying for issues inside the state and then there's another 18 or 19 states that are going in the direction but again are unsure they could be compliant. So when I talked to the governors -- and I would say the same thing here -- I think the governors have to kind of have a real serious conversation with their citizens, with the staffs first and decide whether they can -- they can hit the market in January.
And if they can't they'll have a conversation with their citizens about, you really need to consider getting a passport as an example. Passports for 10 years, $110 I think to get a

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passport, very easy to get, because in January, if they don't have some compliant I.D., they're not going to be able to get on an airplane domestically or otherwise.
I had -- this was -- scared me to death actually, because I thought -- when I -- well I just thought that the people I was talking to in Washington, which is a really a red state right now, probably not get there. And by the way, the governor -- several governors have asked me to send some people from my staff to take a look at where they are to do an appraisal of if they're going to make it so that they could talk to their people. I've made that available to all the states.
But the point is when I was talking to these businessmen and women in Seattle who were in the -- in the -- you know, very well- informed people. They were all under the impression that their state enhanced drivers' license was real I.D. compatible, which it's not. So if -- if people like that were unaware of -- of the -- of the ID situation, I'd say the vast majority of the -- good citizens of Washington State.
So the point is, where it is right now, if you're not fully compliant on -- on 22 of January coming, then you will have to have a form of I.D., like a military I.D., or a passport -- passport card in order to get on an airplane. That's where it is right now.
PETERS: Under section 102, of the Real I.D. Act, the DHS can wave laws to facilitate the construction of a border wall. This provision has been used up previously to waive dozens of laws, including some environmental load laws. What laws does DHS intend to waive to build this new wall along the southern border?
KELLY: First, obviously, do the -- do the -- do the nuts and bolts survey of where we're going to put wall -- and at that those points, as I understand it, I would have to consult my -- my lawyers, obviously but places like the Indian reservation would be complicated, and -- and we're -- we're working with the Indian reservation in Arizona, 75 miles of the border. They already have some technology there. That would be a place that would be unwilling, unlikely to take on. There are some eminent domain issues.
We'll try to do as much as we can without those kinds of -- without those kinds of issues coming -- coming to ahead. Certainly, I'm very, very aware of any critical habitat, particularly say the Big Bend part of Texas. So again senator, not going to build a wall where it doesn't make sense, but we'll do something across the Southwest border.
PETERS: I understand you're -- you're going to need some time to review some of these issues and perhaps we can work closely with your office as that goes forward. But I would just ask if you'd be willing to commit to -- to one item, and that would be not to waive of FOIA under the wall project, so that we can have full transparency.
KELLY: Can I get back to you? But it sounds like a yes to me.
PETERS: Great, appreciate that. Thank you.

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JOHNSON: Senator Hassan?
HASSAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and ranking member, and good morning Secretary Kelly. It's nice to see you again. There is a specific program within ICE's Homeland Security Investigations division that focuses on bringing law-enforcement scrutiny to the adjudications of visa applications. The program is called the Visa Security Program. Right now in 30 United States diplomatic posts around the world, specially trained law enforcement teams are dispatched to provide recommendations to the State Department's consular offices in order to help these diplomats make informed decisions about whether to grant a visa to a foreign national.
Bringing law enforcement skills to the visa adjudication process makes a lot of sense at least to me, hope it does to you too. And it should probably be, I think, implemented across the board for all diplomatic posts that issue visas. We're working on possible legislation on this topic so I wanted to ask two questions. Would you support the expansion of visa security teams to more diplomatic posts and is the visa security team fully funded in the fiscal year '18 budget request?
KELLY: I'll have to check on the funding issue but I think anything we can do overseas to make better decisions about who might come to the United States for whatever reason is -- is a good idea and should be reinforced and we should be constantly looking at even better ways to do that. But I'll get back to you on the funding if that's all right.
HASSAN: OK, no, that's fine. Thank you. I want to now move to a different topic. As you know as well as anyone, we have seen multiple incidents of violence at the public or non-sterile areas of our airports. In 2013, a TSA officer at Los Angeles International Airport was murdered at the TSA checkpoint by a disturbed individual while earlier this year an active shooter killed five people near the baggage claim area at the Fort Lauderdale Airport.
Last spring, suicide explosions occurred in the public areas at Brussels Airport and Istanbul Ataturk Airport killed 61 people. In the president's initial budget release, the federal support for securing the public portions of airports has been gutted. The budget cuts the VIPR teams, the behavioral protection officer program is eliminated, and TSA grants to reimburse state and local law enforcement for their patrols at airports are also being slashed.
So amid this increasing threat to our airports, why is the administration cutting these key counterterrorism measures?
KELLY: The VIPR teams for sure are something that I'm working very hard to save.
HASSAN: OK.

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KELLY: As far as the grants go, and this doesn't fall under the sanctuary city thing or anything like that, I think the expectation is that parking lots and areas outside the immediate -- you know, the TSA security zones really belong to the state, local -- you know, the airports are great generators of revenue, are necessary for various states and I think the thinking there is that the state and local folks need to -- you know, I'm familiar with the Boston Airport, I mean there's more -- there's more state police that, you know, kind of, you know cycle around that airport, not to mention Boston Police.

So I think the thinking is that for outside the security perimeter that's established by TSA, that would belong more to the local community.

HASSAN: Well, as a former governor, I might suggest that we discuss that a little bit more because I know how much additional work securing even the non-sterile areas are and it's a partnership to be sure but I am very concerned -- money is not growing on trees in our state budgets and so I think it's something we really need to look at because the overall security climate at airports I think will really be compromised with those grants.

So I'd look forward to discussing that with you more. I'll submit for the record a question on airport -- foreign airport staff screening. But I did want to talk a little bit about DHS and cyber defenses. In an effort to strengthen its cyber defense, the Department of Defense recently launched two programs to capitalize on the vast network of U.S. computer security researchers who may not want to work for the federal government, but still want to help secure our nation from cyber threats.

The first was a pilot program called Hack the Pentagon and it provided hackers across the country with legal authorization to spot vulnerabilities in DOD networks in return for cash payments. The second program with the establishment of a vulnerability disclosure policy which provides a legal avenue for these hackers to hunt for and report vulnerabilities in DOD networks without fear of prosecution. I think these are really forward thinking cyber programs that leverage an untapped resource in United States.

So the question is, has DHS considered implementing similar programs?

KELLY: One of the things -- I don't know if the Senator was here -- one of the things now -- now that I have a deputy, this -- this is a critically important issue, it goes without saying.

HASSAN: Right.

KELLY: Now that I have a deputy, this is another one of those things -- the -- the whole cyber enterprise within -- within DHS. But -- but another thing we -- were already doing, and that is -- that was just one of the reasons I was in Seattle recently, is reaching out -- reaching out as is, I think all of government -- reaching out to the commercial sector,

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because the -- the answers are just not -- they're definitely not just of the federal government.
HASSAN: Right.
KELLY: They're everywhere. So Elaine Duke, now that she is confirmed -- and thank you for that -- will -- will take this on, among a number of other things that – that she'll focus on. I'm with you on this. And I -- was unaware of these programs where I am now, and I can get back to you can and talk to you about it?
HASSAN: I think it would be great just because, again we have a lot of people with talent and skill and interest in serving their country who may not want to come work for the government, but we really need their -- their skill and their insight.
One last area I wanted to touch on. I know you referenced this morning the president's commission on the opioid epidemic and I was glad to see you were there at the listening session on opioid and substance misuse last week. And you and I have spoken about the issue before, both in our one-on-one meeting and your confirmation hearing. And we've agreed on the need to crackdown on illegal opioids, while also dealing with the demand side of the problem of prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.
So I'm looking to find out more about the goals of the president's new commission on combating drug addiction and the opioid crisis, which he established by executive order last week. And I want to ensure that the rhetoric here is that by real action that reflects the seriousness of this crisis. The news reporting on the commission's been a little scattered. So the first question for you is, are you a member of the commission?
KELLY: I am.
HASSAN: OK, that's great to know. And my understanding from the executive order is at the commission has 90 days to make a report on interim recommendations. Do you know what the process will be to get to those recommendations?
KELLY: I don't. It's in the staff realm, but let me just say, this -- to say the least is a passion for me. And my entire time in Southern command, I -- I talked about this To the point of getting a fair amount of -- getting crosswise with a fair amount of people in the White House and other parts of our government. The beauty, I think, of this president was -- I don't know if you were in the room when I made this comment before but one of the first conversations I had with President-Elect Trump was this issue of drugs, drug demand, what it does to not only our own country but to certainly the hemisphere.
HASSAN: Sure.
KELLY: And the money it makes available for corruption and terrorism and things like that. He's -- he's taken this big (ph) and he's going to make this work, I believe. So it's a comprehensive -- everything from drug demand reduction to rehab to law enforcement

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to helping out the Central American republics to working with Mexico on the heroin production.
We have great partners down -- it's just very long, 2,000 mile if you will, process of trying to get at the drug demand.
HASSAN: Well, I appreciate that very much. I appreciate your presence on the commission, I look forward to working with you on it and I put a plug in for central benefits in our healthcare so that people can get the treatment that they need. Thanks.
JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Hassan.
By the way, I've seen cherry blossoms growing on trees here in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately I haven't seen money grow on trees here in Washington either.
Senator Daines?
DAINES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Secretary Kelly, thank you for being here today. I kind of figure when you put a four-star Marine in charge of homeland security, good things will start to happen. And...
KELLY: ... not everyone agrees with that.
DAINES: Yeah, well I do. I was struck yesterday, we were in this same room in fact, this -- the same table, you had one of your former commissioners at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, David Aguilar was here testifying and I asked him a question about the reductions that we're seeing in apprehension rates of illegal southwest border crossings.
That February data point came out and saw a 40 percent reduction in February when we typically see because of seasonality anywhere from a 10 to 20 percent increase, we saw a 40 percent decrease in February. David then followed up and said "I believe we're going to revise those numbers as we have a little more time here" because that release came out on March 8, now we're into April.
He said "it looks like it's actually a 67 percent reduction in the month of February." This is not a statistical anomaly, something is going on. We talked about what that is in terms of the messages coming from the administration about enforcement rule of law. So I just want to congratulate you and the administration with some early success. My question is, these are encouraging results. What substantive actions will you be taking in order to make sure that we can sustain these reductions that we're seeing early on in this administration?
KELLY: The first would be to gain control of our southwest border. Much of what we're seeing here -- and the second would be to work -- and I don't know if you were here when we were talking about this, the Central American issue of helping them security and economically. The -- again, I've traveled many times, they call me, they're my

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friends (ph). The people from Central America that are coming here, overwhelmingly nice people.

Simple for the most part, rural, not highly educated, that's just the nature of their societies but they come here for two reasons. One, lack of economic opportunity and two, because of violence particularly in the cities that are astronomical, although, to use Honduras as an example, in the four years that the current president is there, he's taken it from 91 per 100,000 which is what it was when I was in Miami on active duty, highest in the world, it's down I think 50 -- 59.

And that's still astronomical. Violence across our country is about 5 per 100,000 murders. So it's still high but the point is they're bringing it down and I was speaking with the -- separately with the president of Honduras in my office just last week. What he's done economically he expects to grow his economy by 600,000 jobs in the next five years.

KELLY: This is phenomenal information or progress. The Jimmy Morales from Guatemala, similar kind of efforts and similar kind of successes both in reducing the violence rates as well as economics. That's why I think this -- this economic forum if you will, in -- in Miami in June will add to it. So why aren't they coming? They're not coming for the most part, because they don't know what's going on. they've heard of the -- the actions of the ICE agents internal of the United States, much of it terribly misreported by -- by our press but that said, it's -- it's added to the deterrent effect. What we're doing on the border -- what we intend to do on the border has added to the deterrent effect. These people are not wealthy people. Their entire -- oftentimes their entire life savings are given to the coyotes -- to traffickers to get one or two or three them into the United States. We know because of the focus we're putting on the traffickers now when we catch them -- actually prosecute them. The traffickers now have raised their fares, their prices two and three times. So what used to be, say, $4,000 per -- per individual to get into the United States from say, Honduras is now 8,10, $12,000. Well, the people again, down in those parts of the world can't afford that kind of money. They're already paying more than they could afford. So all that is added to the deterrent effect.

My appeals personally through the press and to the presidents and the attorneys general from those three countries, the Roman Catholic leadership, the evangelical leadership. I met with the -- our -- the Los Angeles Roman Catholic Archbishop, spoke with the Archbishop in Houston; again, asked them to contact their counterparts if you will, in those countries to -- to ask, beg the people not to take that horribly dangerous trip to the United States, because you will be sent back and you won't have the money, and you'll probably -- if you're a woman have been assaulted once if you're lucky; or if

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you're young, you could be siphoned off into the cartel gang Mexican fix. So that's why they're not coming.
DAINES: Yeah, well I -- I -- I think you're also demonstrating in my opinion, the experience you are bringing from your Southern command leadership. I think is having already a significant impact on our country in protect our southern border (ph).
KELLY: Thanks for that (ph).
DAINES: No, thank you, truly. And also, I appreciate your compassion as you're looking at the effect it's having on very poor people who are being taken advantage of as they're seeking to come into our country. I'm from Montana. We think about our northern border but the southern border and the methamphetamines that are coming into Montana and they're coming in from our southern border having a huge impact on our state.
Mitigating the flow of drugs long before they reach our border, as you are well aware, your time in command of SOUTHCOM is very important. We discuss this concept to confirmation hearing. What steps have you taken on the job to stymie the flow of drugs as well as violence into our country?
KELLY: Great question. One of the things we know about the flow of hard drugs, marijuana comes in vast amounts but it's also produced in the United States in vast amounts, but methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine are the big killers and along with that are opiates that are counterfeited, if you will, and of course not with a lot of quality control so -- but you don't know -- the average person abusing opiates in the United States doesn't know that a lot of it is not produced by, you know, credible -- they're produced by labs in Mexico or in other places.
But the point is, most of that comes into the United States in 10, 15, 20 kilo loads via the ports of entry, in trucks and things like that. So what have I done? We're now looking very, very hard at the ports of entry which are not really part of the wall, if you will, effort. But look at the ports of entry. If there is better technology out there and I think there is to look into vehicles without unloading the vehicle, particularly tractor trailers to get after it that way.
But I would tell you, methamphetamine, helping -- working with the Mexicans. They're good partners in law enforcement. My folks, I'm proud to say, my HSI, Homeland Security Investigation, working with the Mexicans led them to -- I'll just put it that way, to two huge methamphetamine labs that were destroyed by the Mexican -- Mexican marines, I think in that case.
Working with them and identifying the poppy fields in the south -- the Pacific Southwest of their country and helping -- offering them perhaps help in how to eradicate those, much as we've done for so many years in Colombia with coca. That's what we're doing

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but the big issue really right now in drugs coming into the United States is the ports of entry and a part of that as well is what goes south.
We don't look at much at going south out of our country. The Mexicans don't look at that very well either. I'd like to extend the effort to look in vastly more vehicles going south because bulk money in unbelievable amounts travels south out of the United States into the rest of the hemisphere to get laundered. I mean billions and billions of dollars in guns.
If we point a finger at the Mexicans or people who produce -- countries that produce drugs, we point our finger at them about the production of drugs, they will point their finger right back and say "what about guns?" So we need to do better and the southward flow to go after the money and to go after the flow of guns. And that'll take some time, some effort, but I think there's a next step and a next step after that in technology.
The stuff we have now is pretty good, I was up with Senator Peters looking at the busiest traffic point between Detroit and Canada. Technology that looks into trucks, tractor-trailers is pretty good but I know there's better stuff out there and we'll just -- we'll just get after it. But mostly the drugs come in, we believe, we know comes in, in relatively small amounts, 10, 15 kilos at a time in -- in automobiles and those kind of conveyances.
DAINES: Thank you, sir. Secretary Kelly, thank you.
JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Daines. I just want to remind everybody kind of watch the clock. We've got great attendance, I appreciate it, want to make sure everybody gets a chance to answer questions -- or ask questions. Senator Carper.
CARPER: Thanks so much. General Kelly, great to see you How are you holding up? You've got a lot on you? You have a lot of tough jobs before?
KELLY: I've been in this job for 15 years, but it's -- three months seems like 15 years. (LAUGHTER)
CARPER: I'm sure it does.
KELLY: This is the most enjoyable thing I'll do this week.
CARPER: Well for us, too. For us, too. We say this often -- we say (inaudible). Thank you for being the voice of reason, thanks for being just a great patriot. I -- we've been talking a bit about -- I'll just follow up on a number of (ph) the questions -- deal with the border, border strategy, and that sort of thing. I think the message I hear form both sides and on this side, hearing from you as well, is there's -- we need an all the above strategy on the border. It's not just a wall, it's not just as fencing.

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Those are important and appropriate in certain places, but if -- if immigration -- comprehensive immigration reform was a guest worker program, it sort of takes away the need for people to come up here and get stuck up here on this side of the border but can go back and forth and do good work out for -- for -- for our country go back to their home. It includes reference the lines of perspective (ph), I'm delighted to hear the economic summit that you're planning for -- being held in May. Do you have the dates yet on that?

KELLY: It's going to be now in June, and that was based on our vice president's desire to attend, either the 12th -- I think it'll be the 12th, might be a little later. It will be in Miami just because that -- that is -- is a great place to bring Latin Americans because of the language and all of this kind of -- he's very familiar with city. So that's the place to do it.

DAINES: OK. Well, I'm glad you're doing it because it's a smart -- smart move. One other thing we need to do is we need to -- in order to incent of the private sector and others -- countries and other organizations to -- to help out in the work that needs to be done in Central America so they actually have some economic hope and opportunity and do a better job combating that crime and violence, we set the example, our funding for alliance with prosperity (ph) I think, is very important for that. My hope is that -- that you can continue to support. I think you know what makes sense.

KELLY: Absolutely.

DAINES: I like to say for the folks down in Central America, you can do it, we can help. Do you (inaudible), but we can -- they (ph) can help and I think we're doing that. Border security -- the force multipliers that -- there's just a tone of them. Innovation, we talked about the innovation of technology, but it's -- it's not just drones and fixed wing (ph) aircraft, it's not just (inaudible), but it's those -- aircraft but it's with the right kind of surveillance technology. Invader (ph) system, that kind of thing, it's actually so much more helpful.

I mentioned yesterday in the -- in my -- in my comments, 23 years in the Navy, naval flight officer, P-3 aircraft mission command, we did a lot of anti-submarine warfare (ph), a lot of stuff (ph) off the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia. We also did search and rescue. And we did search and rescue with binoculars out of the P-3 aircraft at 500, 1,000, 2,000 feet, good luck; it's hard to find anything. Invader (ph) systems make all the sense in the world. But part of the -- part of the forces multipliers is observation tires (ph) that can be fixed.

As you know, they can be mobile, they can be mobile, they have to have the right surveillance systems. Part of it can be horses. And some of its been down (ph) and

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chairman, I've been down I think maybe with Heidi to see the horses do the work in (inaudible) force multiplier. There's motion detectors, there's intelligence -- better intelligence. How are we doing on the intelligence in terms of the intelligence we're sharing with the folks in Mexico and further south?

KELLY: Sir, the law enforcement intelligence information sharing is very, very, very good.

DAINES: Part of the force multipliers are boats and the ramp. We can get the boats in the water, so all kinds of stuff. In some places it makes sense, other places it does not, but it's an all the about approach. I want to ask you to talk a little bit about leadership and the management -- the ability of management -- to manage this organization. Senator Johnson and I, (inaudible) and I, and a number of this committee worked right closely with Jeh Johnson, with (inaudible) to try to make sure that the department had a terrific leaderships team -- a confirmed leaderships team.

And I think many of them are gone now, as -- as you know, and that's -- we had an election. The -- but we want to be helpful. We have Elaine Duke's confirmed yesterday, we want to be helpful and bringing the rest of your leadership team in. You'll have to tell us who you want to give us a chance to -- to do that. So we look forward to hearing about -- about that. The other think on leadership I found -- and we talked about this before, it would be nice to have, instead of all the departments spread over hell's (ph) half acre throughout the greater Washington metropolitan area in Virginia and so forth. It'd be nice to have people I consolidated in a more close-knit area. That could be St. Elizabeth's (ph), I think it should be. I wasn't always at the end of the St. Elizabeth's project (ph) but I've come to believe that it's the smart thing to do -- smart fiscally smart thing to do. Your thoughts, please?

KELLY: If I could comment on the leadership, I would tell you you're right. Elaine, myself, really the only two political types and almost -- I don't know -- I can't quite get my arms around the fact that I'm a political appointee because of my life before this.

CARPER: Look up in the dictionary for political appointee, your picture is not there.

KELLY: Thanks (ph). But we have tremendous career professionals so the function of the department has not -- from when Jay left and all the rest of the political appointees left has not stopped at all. We have tremendous long-serving public servants that are running the department now and as time goes on, of course, political appointees will theoretically be confirmed by the Senate and will take their places and then they'll learn their jobs underneath those tremendous public servants.

CARPER: That's a good point.

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KELLY: On the consolidation, I don't think -- two things. DHS I don't think will ever be, you know, a functioning, cohesive organization to the degree that it should be and could be unless it does consolidate somewhere in more or less the same building or on the same campus. First issue. And the second issue is, and as long as the department answers to as many...
CARPER: ...Committees and subcommittees?
KELLY: Yeah, I mean, you know, Jim Mattis has four committees that he has to concern himself with and a number of subcommittees and that's -- and that's what I -- that was my life before. This is a very, very different beast but I don't think it'll ever be, you know, as I say, as cohesive as it could be so long as we have, I think it's a hundred -- well, it's 119 plus committees and subcommittees that still have jurisdiction from the olden days from when the department was formed.
It's not impossible to function but it won't be the same so long as there's so many disparate committees to answer to and that generates frankly a...
CARPER: ...Does St. Elizabeth's make sense?
KELLY: It does make sense. The committee does make sense, yeah.
CARPER: All right, good. Thank you. My time's expired, thank you so much.
KELLY: Thank you.
JOHNSON: Senator Harris.
HARRIS: Secretary Kelly. I was heartened to hear your response to Senator Heitkamp's question about the separation of children from their parents. I understood you to say that only if the life of the child is in danger would there be a separation. Is that correct?
KELLY: That would -- depending on what's going on, on the ground but that generally would be my approach.
HARRIS: And are you willing then to issue a statement to your staff that that is your approach and that that's your policy?
KELLY: My staff knows already that they will not separate anyone unless I'm informed and get my permission.
HARRIS: Have you issued a directive to that?
KELLY: They know that.
HARRIS: That's not my question, sir.
KELLY: My response is they know that so yes, I have through the leadership told them that if that's going to happen, that will only be me...
HARRIS: ...With all due respect sir, are you willing -- are you willing to issue a directive to your staff that that's your policy?
KELLY: I have already done that.

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HARRIS: You have issued a directive?
KELLY: Through my leadership.
HARRIS: I'd like a copy of that then. Is that in writing?
KELLY: It's verbal.
HARRIS: OK. Are you willing to issue a written directive to your staff that that's the policy of the department? You have -- you run an organization of 230,000 people. Is that correct?
KELLY: Right at 230.
HARRIS: And why are you reluctant then to issue a directive to your staff if that is in fact your policy?
KELLY: I'm not reluctant, I've already given the -- the verbal -- and it only really applies to...
HARRIS: ...So are you unwilling, sir, to issue a written directive that it is the policy of the department to not separate someone from their mothers unless the life of the child is in danger?
KELLY: I don't need to do that. I've done it verbally.
HARRIS: So is your answer no?
KELLY: My answer is I don't need to do that.
HARRIS: You don't need to do it. Sir are you aware that Sean Spicer said that with the new administration, that now finally the president wanted to take the shackles off individuals in this agency? Are you familiar with that?
KELLY: No.
HARRIS: Are you familiar with Brandon Judd who testified before our committee in response to a question from Senator Daines said that now that we can take the handcuffs off of us and put the handcuffs on the criminals. Are you aware of that?
KELLY: No.
HARRIS: Are you aware that...
KELLY: Is that a recent hearing?
HARRIS: Yes, it was. Are you aware that David Lapan, you're spokesperson said yesterday to the Washington Post that "immigration agents may arrest crime victim and witnesses at courthouses?"
KELLY: Yes.
HARRIS: And are you willing to exempt victims and witnesses who do not have serious criminal backgrounds form that policy?

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KELLY: Every case is different and we -- as they -- as the agents do their work, of course, the people that are taken into custody are put into a legal justice system. So that's where the decision would be made to deport, export, whatever.
HARRIS: Are you willing to initiate a policy that says that if that person who is a victim or a witness to a crime who is at a courthouse in any county in the United States, appearing as a victim or a witness to a crime, that if they do not have a serious criminal background, that they would be exempt from a policy of picking them up at that courthouse?
KELLY: No.
HARRIS: And are you aware that local law enforcement has a concern, because this has created a chilling effect among victims and witness to crime, and has resulted in their reluctance to show up to actually testify about crimes committed in their community.
KELLY: I have heard some number of laws enforcement people say that, but also hear the opposite view.
HARRIS: During your confirmation hearing before this committee on January 10, you committed to doing a top to bottom assessment of DHS, is that correct?
KELLY: I did.
HARRIS: And have you finished this assessment?
KELLY: No.
HARRIS: When do you plan to finish it?
KELLY: I don't know.
HARRIS: You don't have a goal of finishing it?
KELLY: I have a general goal.
HARRIS: What is that date?
KELLY: Well, one of the things I'll task my new deputy that was confirmed yesterday, she'll take that one.
HARRIS: Have you given her a date for when that assessment will be complete?
KELLY: No, because when she wasn't confirmed, I didn't deal with her as a deputy; I didn't want to presume confirmation by the Senate.
HARRIS: So you do not have a goal for your department on when that assessment will be completed?
KELLY: She and I will discuss a goal.
HARRIS: And have you read the -- as part of the assessment that needs to be done, have you read the report issued by the Inspector General, John Roth that was issued

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just four months ago, November 7, 2016, entitled "Major Management Performance Challenges Facing the Department of Homeland Security?"
KELLY: I'm aware of the report, yes.
HARRIS: Have you read it?
KELLY: I'm aware of it.
HARRIS: So you've not read it.
KELLY: An executive summary.
HARRIS: OK. In the report, the I.G. says, quote "this year, we are presenting a broader picture of management challenges by highlighting those we have repeatedly identified over several years. We remain concerned about the systemic nature of these challenges, some of which span multiple administrations and department leadership." Do you agree that many of the challenges are systemic and deeply rooted in the department?
KELLY: Well, of course that was pre-Kelly. And it was...
HARRIS: It was four months ago that report was issued. Do you agree with the statement found by the I.G., based on his analysis of your department?
KELLY: That was pre-Kelly. I am committed...
HARRIS: I'm sorry, pre-Kelly, meaning you?
KELLY: I wasn't in the job yet.
HARRIS: OK.
KELLY: I -- as I've committed to the committee before and to the Congress in general, we're going to take a top to bottom look at how we're organized and how we can do business better, and that includes how we're -- how we have -- through the leadership functions.
HARRIS: Are you aware, sir, that on March 22, union officials and leaders from both ICE and border patrol appeared before this committee? During that hearing, Chris Crane, who is the national ICE council president said, and I will quote, "there is a toxic and failed management culture." He went on to say, quote "a good ol' boy network exist within your department." He went on to say officers are, quote "tripping over mangers in the field," and then said also that the agency has outdated and quote, "practically no policies in place." Are you aware that that is a sentiment among leadership in your department?
KELLY: It certainly is -- certainly that's the sentiment through really, DHS in terms of how DHS was run for the last eight years. Going forward, it won't be run like that anymore.
HARRIS: And how...

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KELLY: Once I -- once I determine how we're going to change the leadership approach.
HARRIS: So you are going...
(CROSSTALK)
HARRIS: ... to come up with a plan for fixing this for the 230,000 people in your department? And is this a priority for you?
KELLY: It is.
HARRIS: And at the same hearing, both Mr. Crane and the National Border Patrol President Brandon Judd (inaudible) in terms of its morale?
KELLY: That was certainly the case under the Obama administration, but we're changing that already.
HARRIS: And you're going that within what time period?
(CROSSTALK)
KELLY: It's already changing.
HARRIS: Oh, it's changed?
KELLY: It's already changing.
HARRIS: It is changing, OK. And in regards to your top-to- bottom assessment, has your assessment included looking into the morale issues at the agency and putting in place programs and initiatives to actually improve the morale?
KELLY: It's what I do, yes.
HARRIS: And can you provide us with a list of the policies that you've instituted to improve morale at the department?
KELLY: My leadership is the start point and we'll continue to look at ways to improve the morale. One of the issues most focused on by this -- by the workforce since -- over the last eight years that affected their morale was an inability to do their jobs. Now that -- now that we've opened the aperture in terms of the amount of work that they're allowed to do, the -- I'm deflecting a lot of outside influences into the workforce so they can do their jobs...
HARRIS: Sir, my question to you -- with all due respect, my question to you is, what have you put in place to turn the morale around in this department and the morale which is the lowest of many large federal agency and the condition has existed throughout the -- it appears, the life of the agency and certainly has passed through many administrations.
KELLY: Under the Obama administration, the morale suffered terribly.
HARRIS: So what plans have you put in place, sir?
KELLY: My leadership.
HARRIS: So you're saying by virtue of you being there, morale will now change?

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KELLY: By virtue of the fact -- the greatest impact in raising the morale in the last 90 days or so has been that the workforce now is allowed to do their job.
HARRIS: And that would be, they're now unshackled. Is that correct?
KELLY: They're allowed to do their job as the professionals they are.
HARRIS: And the administration has proposed tripling the current number of ICE agents and increasing the number of border patrol agents by 25 percent in addition to requesting a $4 billion to begin the construction of a wall which has been discussed. Are you in support of actually bringing on these new agents before you have repaired the damage that has exited in your agency?
KELLY: It's simultaneous, sure.
JOHNSON: Senator Harris, we're going to give you an opportunity...
HARRIS: I'll go to round two. Thank you, Chairman.
JOHNSON: I'm not sure we're going to have round two but we'll have opportunities to submit questions for the record.
HARRIS: I do have more questions so if we can do a second round, I would appreciate that.
JOHNSON: I want to be, you know, thoughtful of people's time.
Senator Portman.
PORTMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
And General Kelly, it's good to have you before the committee again. First of all, I'm glad we finally got Elaine, the great Ohioan over there in your department. You talked earlier about her being a political appointee. I view her as a career person having had 27 years in the federal government and including obviously big roles over at DHS as a career expert on management and procurement and some of the big challenges that you face trying to bring together all these departments and agencies into one.
So I'm glad she's there and I know she will be a tremendous asset to you. At your nomination, we talked a lot about this drug issue. And as you know, I was very complimentary of comments that you had made to this committee about a year and a half ago now regarding the importance of focusing on the demand side and that's where I've focused most in the last 25 years and I agree with you, that's the single most important thing is to reduce the demand.
And you talked about prevention and education, treatment and recovery, helping law enforcement and so on. I was a little concerned about the comments earlier about the commission. I do hope the commission heeds your comments and your thoughts on that. But you should also know just by way of information, Congress just spent three

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years going through this process that the commission's going to do in 90 days apparently which is helping identify the problem.
We had five conferences here, not just numerous hearings, but conferences bringing in experts from all around the country looking at best practices and came up with this Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, a bipartisan bill that was finally passed last year and one of my concerns is that only three of the eight programs provided there, including things like helping out on drug courts and some of the things you've talked about in terms of diversion, it's not about locking people up, it's about better prevention and getting people the treatment they need.
But only three of those eight programs have been implemented. And I pushed the Obama administration on this and I'm now pushing the Trump administration on it. So one, I hope you'll get up to speed on what CARA's about, what it does. It is comprehensive, not just in name but in reality and it's based on a lot of work that's been done not just over the last few years with these conferences but around the country over time.
Because I don't think we need to recreate the wheel
I think we need to go to action, this is a crisis and it's an epidemic, certainly in my state and many other states around the country. It -- its one that is particularly difficult because of the opioid issue.
In other words, crystal meth is increasing in some communities. I understand the cocaine is back in some communities. This opioid issue -- the grip of that addiction has been a huge challenge as you know, for treatment and -- and recovery. We're beginning to learn more about it and how to do a better, but we got to get this legislation implemented and get the Cures Act money appropriated again.
I hope the budget will reflect that ,which is another $500 million we need in next year's budget just for helping the states to be able to deal with this. On fentanyl, it's the new issue. As you know in so many of our states we probably are hit harder on it than other state, we're told per capita. But this is this toxic substance, as you know that is a synthetic heroine, carfentanil, euphoric (ph), it goes by various names, but it's -- its created by evil scientists in a laboratory somewhere. And you mentioned it coming in from Mexico. Yes, some comes in for Mexico but primarily that's coming from China to here as I understand from your people in and then going to medic going back into here. The vast majority of it -- and there's a new commission report out -- the U.S.-China commission recently is coming from Mexico. I'm sorry -- coming from China. And it's coming from laboratories in China, and is coming by the U.S. mail system. And you and I talked about this again during your confirmation process, and the very difficult job that

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CBP and DEA and others have of identifying these packages, because the U.S. mail system does not require advance information as to what's in the package, where it's from, where it's going. By the way, FedEx and UPS and DHO and other private carriers do require that.

And what we heard from your folks, including Todd Owen, executive assistant commission, the office of field operations at CBP, when he testified before this committee on this, is that having this advanced data from the post office would be key to helping you to build to target these packages to find the ones that are suspect. we have legislation, as you know, called the Stop Act that is bipartisan, Senator Klobuchar, myself, Senator Hassan, who was here earlier, Senator Rubio, that we are attempting to get passed simply to say lets require that these packages have this information.

This is what we've heard about from your people as the solution to being able to target some of this fentanyl, to being able to stop some of this poison coming into our communities and killing our -- our citizens. By the way, that opinion was reinforced at a roundtable discussion I had just 10 days ago in Ohio with your CBP folks. We had two of your port chiefs there, we also had folks there who are from your HSI group, your group of individuals who work with law-enforcement every day to try to find this -- this material.

We also had folks from DEA who had testified on this. And so my question to you is what can we do to get this done President Trump in the campaign talked favorably about the Stop Act. You have talked favorable about the need to have that this information. I guess what I would ask is two questions. One, you agree with me that having this advanced data on shipments coming into the United States, up from both the post office and private carriers would help your officers be able to target illegal shipments?

KELLY: I do.

PORTMAN: Second, would this informed targeting by CBP potentially reduce the ability of the post office to be sent for illicit shipping of all kinds of contraband?

KELLY: I think it will.

PORTMAN: And third, have you had a chance now, since your nomination, to review the Stop Act and what are your thoughts and comments on the Stop Act and its potential to be able to help?

KELLY: Just in -- in preparation for this hearing, we had a long conversation CBP people on the issue of the post office. Apparently -- and of course they don't work for us, but the -- the post office leadership is -- is starting to move in the right direction. Just the other day I get a DOG -- DOJ effort, DEA agreement, such as they are with China but in

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agreement at least that they will get after the fentanyl production and -- and shipment out of their country. I'll see how that turns out. One of the problems, as I think you know, Senator, that my folks have pointed out to me is, a lot of the countries that -- where these parcels come from, you know, just don't cooperate.

But that's -- that's an effort that we should focus on to have them cooperate in terms of identifying the package, what's in the package, this kind of thing so again, I was probably not as aware of this issue three days ago as I am now. And Kevin McAleenan who we hope someday will be the commissioner, he's the acting now, has this very much on his front burner as it is now mine -- on mine.

PORTMAN: I appreciate that but we're asking President Trump to raise this to President Xi because you're right, China's not doing enough to close down these laboratories and keep these materials from being spread. And by the way, it's a problem in China as well. I'm told the fentanyl is now leaking out into the...

KELLY: I think that's the only reason now they're interest because it is a problem.

PORTMAN: It is a problem. You know, a few flakes of this stuff can kill you. It is being put in relatively small packages and sent and there are millions of packages so do you agree that the STOP Act would be helpful to be able to identify these packages?

KELLY: Yes, sir.

PORTMAN: Thank you for that. And I guess the final thing I want to say with regard to the border because we talked a lot about this earlier and I really appreciate your comment which was we're not going to build a wall where it doesn't make sense. We do need a wall in certain areas including some urban and even some suburban areas and we do need, again, the technology that was talked about earlier in other areas.

You mentioned specifically the Big Bend of Texas. I was there at the end of the year, I've been there several times.

KELLY: Canoeing, right (ph)?

PORTMAN: I was and, you know, you're not going to build a wall on those canyon walls and so we need to reassure people that this is about an effective way to secure the border and I appreciate your comments, I understand (ph) think that will help clarify the situation. Thank you.

KELLY: Thanks, sir.

PORTMAN: Appreciate your service.

JOHNSON: Senator Tester.

TESTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you, Secretary Kelly, for your service and I mean that. I go back to what the ranking member in this committee said in her opening remarks and that is that we have faith in you, we have faith in you being the

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adult in the room because of your past record and your past performance. We believe that that will carry on as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.
I've got a number of questions. One deals with, there was $20 million worth of reprogramming money that you requested and that, Senator Boozman and I signed a letter basically stating, utilize the money but utilize it in the best way to protect the border. Not necessarily a concrete wall. Could be a fence, could be drones, could be technology, could be a number of things.
Have you determined how that $20 million is going to be spent?
KELLY: Again, Senator, on the barrier, wall, technology, whatever, we'll -- we'll do it where it makes sense and what makes sense. But we won't waste any money but we have not determined right now what this thing will look like, how long it will be, you know.
TESTER: So -- and I appreciate that response but really the question is, is we reprogrammed $20 million. I don't know that that's the best use of that money because I think it was going to be used in technology but that's a different debate. We did it and the question becomes, if you use all that $20 million to put up a prototype concrete wall, for a prototype to be used, that pretty much tells me what we're going to be doing.
If you use that $20 million, part of it to put up a concrete wall, part of it to use maybe blue rose (ph) technology, part of it to maybe use drones, part of it to use radar, part of it maybe for manpower discussions, that puts my heart at more of an ease. So the question is, is that if you have how this reprogramming money's going to be used, I would like to know it and if you haven't, could you tell me when you might have it?
KELLY: Let me get back to you specifically on that, Senator, but you can -- you can rest assured we won't waste the money and we're not going to build one prototype. We're going to take a look at what makes sense along that whole border.
TESTER: OK. Secret Service was brought up earlier and I also agree that due to circumstances with this administration, your Secret Service is probably stressed more than it ever has been before. Have you made any requests of Congress -- first of all, am I reading that right? I may be reading it wrong and if I am, that's fine. But have you made any requests on Secret Service and the demands that have been put on Secret Service and if we need to deal with that through the budget?
KELLY: Not as of yet. Again, the first thing I'd like to say, and I think you'd agree. Individually the best men and women imaginable, they're just phenomenal that people and they work so hard, and they're -- they max out their over time.
I mean, they just leave (ph) themselves, coming and going. So they need -- and we will come forward to the -- to the Congress and make the case, but they need a lot more

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agents, not just because of -- of the Trump era, if you will, although that is additional, because he's got a lot of children, grandchildren. we need more agents and we need more uniform personnel regardless of whether it's a Mr. Trump or a Mr. Obama or a Mr. anybody because what they do is much larger than simply -- you know, the mission there at the White House and -- and with -- and with presidential travel.

I mean, things like the -- any -- any foreign dignitaries that comes to the United States. It's a much bigger than just that, so we need a larger Secret Service because we need to get some of these people a little bit of time at home with the families.

TESTER: Got you. Coast Guard, you talked about it in your opening remarks. The president's budget came out and lacked Coast Guard, along with a lot of TSA and a lot of other agencies that are under your purview. Question number one is how much input did you have in that budget? Question number two is what are we going to do about fixing it?

KELLY: Question number one, very little. I talked to the OMB people about way forward (ph), and we made -- we're going to make the money -- we'll make the money good for the Coast Guard. They -- they're too vital to securing the Southwest border and a lot of other things.

TESTER: And Mar-a-Lago and a lot of other things. OK, thank you. Northern ports, we talked about ports of entries where drugs are coming through, and we all are focused like a laser on the southern border, and I think that's cool, but the northern border has its challenges too. Can -- can you -- can you tell me how concerned you are on the northern border, and if your concern is with -- I don't think this would be classified information -- is it with drugs?

Is with the undocumented people coming across the line? Is it with the terrorist activities? Where is your -- where is your concern with the northern border and -- and -- and then while follow-up on a that is RBC is concerned with what comes a with the northern borders of the border we'll have a follow up on that.

KELLY: not as -- obviously as concerned with what comes with the northern border as the southern border, but it is our border, so I'm concerned with all the borders. The great -- the absolutely great news story in the northern border is that we have Canada there that it's...

(CROSSTALK)

KELLY: ... a friend and ally. They interact with us at every level, they're very careful about who comes into their country. Maybe not as careful as I -- I want us to be going forward about who comes in our country, but the good news story get up there is -- is the -- Canadians, their law enforcement, their commitment.

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I would say the -- actually this might surprise you. I think -- not a concern really, what I'd like to see the northern border be is -- is even thinner if you will, so that the -- the movement safely and securely of all commerce and (inaudible) can be even -- you know, even streamlined more.
TESTER: It's a big deal. Last thing, and excuse me if this has been asked before, I don't know that has been or if it hasn't. Eminent domain, on the southern border, if we're going to build a wall -- if we're going to do anything, it's going to require permission from the landowners. On the northern border, those landowners are critically important for security. By the way, they're an extra set of eyes we don't have to pay for. How you do with them eminent domain on the southern border?
KELLY: We'll do it judiciously. There may be places we have to do it. Again, that will be part of the both of the -- of the evaluation of where we build the wall, how we build a wall.
TESTER: I would -- I would just say that -- and this point has been brought up in these hearings before -- if you want to get people's attention in rural America, just talk about eminent domain. That hair will be on fire.
KELLY: You know senator, I'm told that back in the -- I think 2008 effort to put fencing on the border, we're still in -- in -- in court with -- with people about eminent domain. Nine years ago.
TESTER: Look I get it. I've got a farm that has to be in the family 100 years. Those ones down there, they're probably 140 or 150. If somebody tried to eminent domain my place, they'd take me off in a box because I wouldn't let them do it. So that's where we're at. Thanks.
KELLY: Thanks.
JOHNSON: This hearing is setting a lot of hair fire. Senator Paul?
PAUL: And his is so special, to be on fire.
(LAUGHTER)
General Kelly, thanks for coming. If I travel abroad and I'm coming back home, do you think it's appropriate to deny me entry to the country unless I let you search my cell phone?
KELLY: Under -- under very, very, very critical circumstances, I would say that an American citizen ought to be able to come back in and not have their electronics searched.
PAUL: We've gone from 5,000 people having their cell phones searched to 25,000. We are denying people entry who are citizens or green card holders who are coming back home and your department is saying to them you cannot return to your home without

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giving us your fingerprint and giving us all of the data on your phone, access to all the data on your phone.

I think this is an extraordinarily unreasonable standard. I also think that you probably can differentiate between citizens, U.S. persons, and those who are coming to visit. So I'm not saying you can't have some standards and that based on suspicion, you can deny someone entry to the country but not a citizen, not a green card holder. They are denying access to our own country.

I could travel abroad and be told I cannot enter America unless I let you look at my phone. That's obscene and do you have a response? We're up to 25,000 of these now.

KELLY: Well it certainly hasn't increased significantly in the 90 days I've been in the job and the 90 days Mr. Trump has been the president. I don't believe we're turning -- I don't think we ever turn back legal citizens or -- I mean citizens or legal residents.

PAUL: That's what's in the paper, I think the last month -- they're telling -- there was a guy that had a green card and his wife was a citizen but he lived here for many years, he was told he could not enter if he did not give his fingerprint to the government.

KELLY: Let me take that on, Senator. The one thing I have learned in this job, that everything I read about this -- about this department or what goes on at our borders is always more to the story. But in general, just like an American citizen coming in and having his bag searched at the port of entry, generally speaking, it's done for a reason.

PAUL: Right. But I think there are different -- and I'm not blaming you. It may sound like I'm blaming you. You've only been on the job for a month or two but in your nomination hearing, you said you were going to respect the fourth amendment and you were going to respect people's privacy. So my hope is that you'll go back and ask people, are we really doing this?

KELLY: You know I will.

PAUL: There have been many reports of this. I would also argue though that there's a difference between searching my bag and my cell phone, OK? If I'm coming in, there is -- it is known that one of the things that happens at the border are drugs, we have dogs, we do all the (ph) -- and we do random searches of bags.

We're doing that even domestically. So I think we can accept that but I think that people are going to be horrified the more they hear that their cell phone, all their contacts, we don't even know what's happening to our cell phone while it's gone and in possession of the government. Are they downloading? And this is the story was this, that they're downloading everybody's contacts and information, there's an extraordinary amount of information on your phone.

KELLY: Not happening.

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PAUL: All right but that's what the stories...
KELLY: These are citizens (ph). And in some cases, it is certainly happening to foreigners coming in but not routinely.
PAUL: But it's gone from 5,000 a year to 25,000. If you wouldn't mind, if you'd look into it and have your people get back to my office on this...
KELLY: Will do.
PAUL: But you know, we put forward legislation, bipartisan legislation because we're so upset about this that really if you're a green card holder or a citizen, even if you had suspicion, the way it would probably work if you were, I think, obeying the spirit of the constitution is you might be able to seize my phone but we would then go to a court and a court would determine whether you had probable cause to actual get the access to my phone for a citizen.
And for a noncitizen, I think if you don't give it, you can probably deny entry. I mean, there are rules on travel to our country. But I think for a citizen or a noncitizen to say I can't come back to my country without giving you the contents of my phone is, I think, really a...
KELLY: Just don't believe we're doing it (ph).
PAUL: All right. But we'll -- please look at the news reports because it wasn't just one, there was a whole series of them in the last couple days and a few interviews of people who are green card holders not being allowed entry. Thanks.
JOHNSON: We will do a second round but I'm going to limit to five minutes because I want to be respectful of the secretary's time.
So Senator McCaskill.
MCCASKILL: Yeah, following a little bit on Senator Paul, I -- I was -- I had to smile when Senator McCain said I was being hysterical. I was being focused and passionate and I learned it from him, by the way. So I was -- and I want to be very clear, I completely understand that we have to take steps to keep terrorists out of our country that are coming here to kill us. I completely understand that this is a global threat that we have to pay attention to and I understand and completely accept that there are people being trained in Raqqah to come here and hurt us.
My point is, I want to make sure what we're doing is effective. It's now out there that we're taking people's phones. I mean, no terrorist that has the ability to come into this country and hurt us is going to come in with anything other than a clean phone. And the people who are going to get caught up in this are going to be a lot of people who aren't probably terrorists because if they were, they'd be smart enough to clean their phone.

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The same thing with some of the -- like I talked about, the questions, they're going to lie and we aren't going to -- you know, maybe we're going to -- for some, maybe we should do polygraphs if we have good information that they're terrorists. So I'm not -- I'm not in any way saying I don't want you to go after terrorists and I don't want you to figure out ways to find the people, and we're taking lots of steps around the globe to do that and I certainly identify with Senator Hassan's remarks about the law enforcement teams helping embassies in terms of screening visa applicants.

All great. So electronic devices, I agree with Senator McCain. I think we've got to be doing some extraordinary steps about electronic devices and I was supportive, I appreciated you giving me a call of you doing the unprecedented step of not allowing laptops in cabins from certain countries. And if you wanted to take a moment, I only have one other brief question so if you wanted to take a moment to maybe explain that so we all understand what steps you've taken and why it's important.

KELLY: Senator, as we discussed on the phone and I made 15 phone calls that day to make sure the leadership, both sides of the aisle, both sides of the Hill understood what we were doing. And then we provided classified briefs to, you know to the Hill again and it's a real threat. I mean, we know on any given day there are dozens of cells that are talking about aviation -- attacking aviation.

And you just watch them over time and see if they develop, if they go from talking to actually doing something. So there's a real threat all of the time. You saw the Russian airplane that was blown up coming out of Egypt as an example, the Somali airplane that thankfully didn't catastrophically come apart but a hole was blown in the side of the airplane and only because the airplane was not at altitude did -- was the pilot able to bring that aircraft home.

It's real. Based on the threat is -- and this was my decision. Certainly briefed it to the president but this was my decision, once I took in all the information from all the sources, that there is a real threat against aviation always but a specific threat and the airports that I decided to prohibit or to do the additional -- the new baggage protocol, that is to say the large electronic devices into the cargo hold are predominantly Muslim countries.

I didn't do it because of the Muslim religion or the color of their skin or -- as some have accused. I was trying to help out the American aircraft industry in places like the Emirates. It's real. I think it's getting realer so to speak. We may take measures in the not too distant future to expand the number of airports. It's real.

MCCASKILL: We appreciate your focus on it and I certainly support the steps you've taken in that regard. Missouri is one of the states has not done Real ID and I just -- I just

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want to make sure that you clarify what is going to happen next year. And the reason I say this is the Missouri legislature is struggling with this. You know, this -- this happened before I came to the Senate.

Both Republican senators voted for this in 2005. In fact, all 100 senators voted for it in 2005 and I understand why it's controversial and frankly I kind of identify with that in many ways because of the state I'm from and our distrust of government in our DNA. But I -- I -- the governor said recently that he had gotten some signals from the Trump administration that would indicate that it wasn't going to be enforced.

And so as a result, the Missouri legislature I think is now struggling with whether they need to do anything. I don't know what you're going to do but whatever you're going to do, the more quickly you clarify whether or not this is going to be enforced next year is really important. Because I think there's some mixed signals going on and as a result I worry about Missourians and their ability to participate in aviation in this country come this time next year.

KELLY: Senator, your comment just now is the only time I've heard anyone say that we're not going to enforce the law in January. I mean, as I say, I've been saying it to the press, we've been saying it to the governors, I...

MCCASKILL: Well you need to call the governor from Missouri because the headline was, Trump administration indicates they may make a change, and then it goes on to say the people who are against doing say, well we need to give Trump time to change this...

KELLY: I'll call some governors (ph) right away.

MCCASKILL: Yeah, that would be terrific. I think that would be very helpful because I know he wants Missourians to be able to fly too. This isn't partisan. We want Missourians to be able to fly next year.

KELLY: My -- my advice again to all of the -- to all of the states that are not right now compatible is to just tell -- tell their -- their citizens to -- you know, the best thing to do is get a passport. And again...

MCCASKILL: Or a passport card.

KELLY: Or a passport card. And again this -- this issue up in Seattle this last week was with this business group, all of whom thought that their state license enhanced will fill the bill and it won't. And if they didn't know that, then I'd say the average Joe and Jane Doe -- they're probably under that misconception. But there's about, I'd say 10 to 12 states anyways that are questionable that they could pull this off.

And so I will call the governor, yes.

MCCASKILL: I really appreciate it.

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KELLY: Yes, Ma'am.
JOHNSON: Senator Harris for five minutes.
HARRIS: I appreciate that.
Secretary Kelly, I represent a state of almost 39 million people which is also a state with the largest number of immigrants documented and undocumented of any state in this country. And they have a right to have an understanding, a clear understanding of the policy priorities of your department. On March 8 confirmation hearing for Elaine Duke, I asked her how the seven enforcement categories from your February 20 memo would be prioritized and she answered that the priorities are listed in descending order.
Do you agree with that?
KELLY: No.
HARRIS: And so what is the -- can you please rank then the seven factors and the priority among them?
KELLY: Those seven factors allow the ICE folks to make their decision as to who they will develop a target package on and then go try and apprehend. But they're not in descending order, they're just those are the categories.
HARRIS: So what has been your direction to the folks on the ground about what the priorities should be understanding that they, like all law enforcement agencies, have limited resources and a very important charge? Are you not giving them any direction around priorities within the seven criteria?
KELLY: The direction they have is, the start point is illegal -- illegal status and then something from the priorities. But they're not going to go after, as an example, all the murderers and then we get -- all the very, very serious criminals and then once we get all of them, go after the next and the next and the next. They can go after an individual if they -- according to the law, if they are on the list because they're illegal and then something.
HARRIS: So sir, among the seven categories, you have as number one convicted of any criminal offense and obviously there's no doubt that especially if someone has been convicted of a serious and violent felony they should be apprehended and they should be dealt with. Second is that anyone charged with a criminal offense but then there has not been a finding of guilt.
The third is they've committed an act which would constitute a chargeable criminal offense so they've not even been charged with the offense. The list goes on to number seven or in the judgment of immigration officers otherwise pose a risk to public safety or national security. How are you training the folks on the ground to exercise their judgment as it relates to factor three or factor seven as an example?

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KELLY: They're already trained and they, through -- through that direction down through the leadership of ICE down to the local agents in charge and whatnot, they train them to execute that policy.
HARRIS: So as former manager of a very large law enforcement organization, the California Department of Justice. I am well aware that you cannot lead a department just from the top down, and it is critical that you communicate the policies of leadership to everyone at every stage, including those at the lowest level who in your agency as in most enforcement agencies, have wide discretion to exert and use their authority.
I would like to know what specifically you are doing to train those people and I would like a copy of what you are doing that is beyond the conversations that you have had with managers, but actually what policies you have put in place to train those folks on how they should exercise the discretion that you've given them, as it relates to this expanded list of -- of -- of folks that can be contacted by the folks in your agency. I would like to have a list submitted, sir. And if you would agree to give us a written copy of the training that you are instituting in your department to train folks about how they should exercise their discretion.
KELLY: we can certainly provide you the policy statements and -- and from that the training takes place. Again, they're already highly trained individuals.
HARRIS: Well, we've already discussed how they have the lowest morale of any federal agency and that...
KELLY: Under the Obama administration.
HARRIS: OK. So sir, given the extent and depth of the problems that exist at DHS and that we had so far received no assessment or any program that you have our plan that you have to address these issues, how can you justify such massive increases in hiring and resources, and should the American public really be expected to give you billions of dollars and provide billions of dollars your agency when on blind faith in spite of the fact that there had been no clear change of direction or cores beyond the fact that you are on appointed to lead the agency?
Should the American public believed in blind faith in the fact that you are now the leader and therefore everything has changed?
KELLY: They should have faith in the fact that I'm the leader. They should also have faith that the rank-and-file have now been allowed to do their job. We've already seen a change in the -- the morale; yes.
HARRIS: Thank you, I have no further questions.
JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Harris.

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Just to add a little perspective and clarity to the device searches. In fiscal year 2015, there was 77.5 million people that can to this country internationally in the flights. That includes Canada and Mexico. There 38.4 million that came in overseas. The 23,877 devices that were searching 2016 was a under different administration, representing a .03 percent of total national arrival, a .06 percent of overseas arrivals, just to put it in perspective.

My concern about all of a sudden this now new administration, now all of sudden, this is a big problem, we're publicizing this, we may be taking a tool of out the toolbox. Kind of like when Osama bin Laden found out that -- that we can actually track his location based on his cell phone. So again, I -- I appreciate your comments on -- on how it's being administered in kind of extraordinary circumstances, many cases again .03 percent of time .06 percent on overseas flights. And I don't know it's -- its just unfortunate.

KELLY: You know Chairman, if I could do, I think -- and this has a lot to do with the press reporting, not against the press -- just they pick up and tend to write off whatever the base story is. I think an awful lot of people are confusing what we're doing at the port of entry today. and the kind of thinking I have in terms of the additional vetting that we will be implementing, whether it's for these overseas -- in -- in overseas locations, whether it's for a visa request to come to the United States, or for that matter, asylum (ph) request.

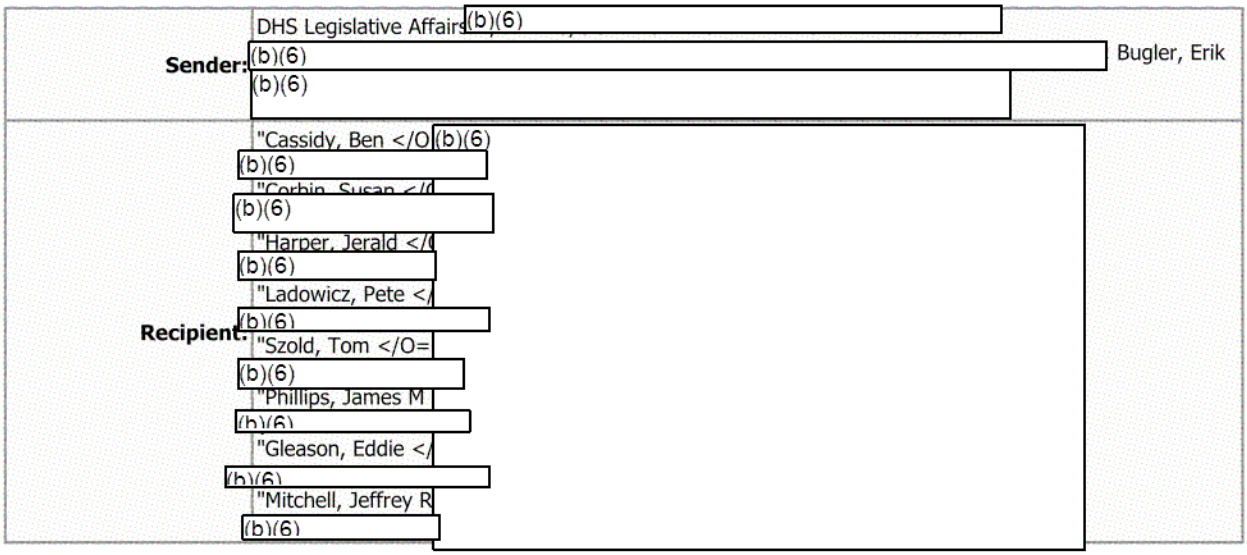
We are going to do a lot more of this electronic stuff. In addition to other things, whether it's in refugee camps in -- in Kenya or in some other country. And we'll do it -- but we won't probably do the same type of additional vetting in say, Britain or Japan. It just depends on the country, depends on the threat. But I think an awful lot of people have jumped to the conclusion a little bit or certainly the press has picked up for whatever reasons and I'll assume they were doing it, you know honestly, that we're not going to do everyone's phone and -- and you know, computer at the border.

JOHNSON: And of course that's the impression the press leaves so we blow it out of proportion. We take what could be an effective tool out of our toolbox and we make this nation less safe, so. And again, I just think it's unfortunate, I kind of want to lay out -- and I think you explain it pretty -- pretty well. You look at a phone, you look at the photos, there's no password required for that it's just oh, I see -- I see a potential pedophile there and that helps prevent something.

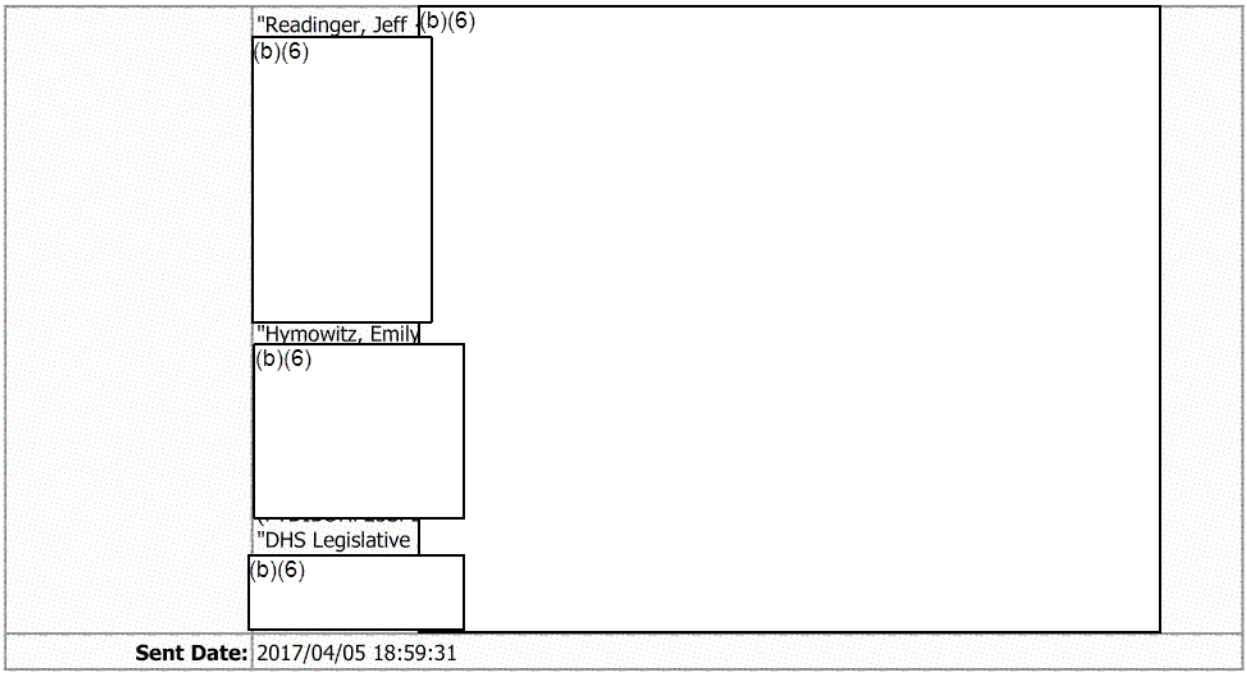
And it's just unfortunate that we do publicize some of these things that from my standpoint ought to remain more at a classified level or just -- not discussed in public domain.

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MCCASKILL: Well I -- Mr. Chairman, I just want to say, I think having these hearings is how we get to the bottom of it and find out the facts. That's why we do this and the questions are important to be asked so we can get the clarification.
JOHNSON: I -- I understand.
MCCASKILL: And so I think -- I think the secretary now is in a position to understand the concerns and I think he'll respond to them and -- and we'll all be in a better place.
KELLY: I'm unfortunately way ahead and I think if Jim Comey and people like that certainly sitting here at the table with me, law enforcement in general, these -- these new applications that will make it impossible to look into someone's phone or electronic device -- right. We will lose a huge -- this country, the good guys and gals in the world in the west and other places -- well, in the world that are trying to protect their people will lose tremendous asset when these applications become more widespread than they are, tremendous advantage lost.
JOHNSON: And I will say (ph) the last time Director Comey was before this committee, he was basically predicting when we finally end the caliphate, Diaspora of terrorists unlike this world has ever seen, we're going to be dealing with that and you're going to have to be dealing with that so I want to make sure you got the tools in your toolkit to keep this nation safe.
So again, General Kelly, thank you for your service, thanks for coming here, thanks for your testimony, your answers to our questions. With that, the hearing record will remain open for 15 days until April 20 at 5:00 P.M. for the submission of statements and questions for the record. This hearing is adjourned.
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TESTIMONY OF

CARLA PROVOST
Acting Chief
U.S. Border Patrol
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

and

JOHN WAGNER
Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner
Office of Field Operations
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

BEFORE

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

ON

"Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request"

June 13, 2017
Washington, DC

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Introduction

Chairman Carter, Ranking Member Roybal-Allard, Members of the Subcommittee, it is an honor to appear before you today. As America's unified border agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) protects the United States from terrorist threats and prevents the illegal entry of inadmissible persons and contraband, while facilitating lawful travel and trade. CBP works tirelessly to detect illicit trafficking of people, drugs, weapons, and money, while facilitating the flow of cross-border commerce and tourism. The President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget includes $13.9 billion to help enable CBP to achieve our complex mission with the right combination of talented and dedicated personnel, intelligence-driven and risk-based strategies, collaborative partnerships, and advanced technology.

The border environment in which CBP works is dynamic and requires continual adaptation to respond to emerging threats and rapidly changing conditions. We are proud of CBP's dedicated men and women, who have advanced CBP's situational awareness of the border environment, and who continue to meet these challenges with integrity and commitment.

Two years ago CBP announced the *CBP Vision and Strategy 2020,* CBP's first comprehensive strategic plan for our agency in nearly a decade. The plan acknowledges the complexity of the CBP mission in an increasingly challenging border environment and provides a roadmap for the way forward by focusing efforts on collaboration, innovation, and integration in meeting our mission goals to:

- combat terrorism and transnational crime;
- advance comprehensive border security and border management;
- enhance U.S. economic competitiveness by enabling trade and travel; and
- promote organizational integration, innovation, and agility.

The last mission goal listed above – promote organizational integration, innovation, and agility – has led us over the last year to make many changes and much progress as we restructure our fiscal, operational, and institutional management to better align our resources with our missions.

To promote organizational efficiencies within CBP, it was announced two years ago that CBP would realign the agency's headquarters structure to better support our personnel in fulfilling CBP's critical mission. These changes emphasize the delegation of authority, more defined and accountable decision-making, and improved span of control for management. While CBP's operational offices – Office of Field Operations (OFO), U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), Air and Marine Operations (AMO), and the Office of Trade (OT) – remain as key Offices within CBP, the new structure identifies and addresses the strengths and weaknesses of our most critical infrastructure, and supports working towards integrated and comprehensive solutions to issues and challenges. We measure the success of this effort by our ability to support the front lines – our ability to identify requirements and to manage resources effectively. CBP's realignment is allowing us to streamline process flows and create efficiencies for the agency.

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Implementing the President's Executive Orders

As President Trump has stated, "Homeland Security is in the business of saving lives, and that mandate will guide our actions." Through a series of Executive Orders (EOs), the President has taken steps to enhance border security, promote public safety, minimize the threat of terrorist attacks by foreign nationals, and protect American workers from unfair foreign competition. The FY 2018 Budget proposes significant investments to support all of those goals while implementing the EOs.

In January, the President signed the Executive Order entitled *Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements* (EO 13767). Included in the Budget is a total of $2.6 billion in enhancements in high-priority border security technology, tactical infrastructure, assets, and equipment, including $1.6 billion for a border wall system and support infrastructure and personnel; $975 million for border security technology, assets, and equipment. Additionally, the Budget provides $100 million to hire 500 additional Border Patrol Agents (BPA), the initial hiring surge for the 5,000 additional agents required by this EO.

The Budget also includes $55 million to help CBP implement initiatives directed by EO 13780, *Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States*, specifically to improve intelligence and targeting capabilities related to the screening and vetting of immigration populations and international travelers, in accordance with Section 5 of the EO.[1] These resources will also support the efforts related to EO 13767.

Finally, the Budget includes $30 million to help CBP meet the legislative mandates to implement the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (TFTEA), as well as the *Omnibus Report on Significant Trade Deficits* called for by EO 13786.

Securing America's Borders

Along the more than 5,000 miles of border with Canada; 1,900 miles of border with Mexico; and approximately 95,000 miles of shoreline, CBP is responsible for preventing the illegal entry of people and contraband at and between the Ports of Entry (POEs). CBP's USBP and AMO agents patrol our Nation's borders and associated airspace and maritime approaches to prevent illegal entry of people and goods into the United States. CBP officers (CBPOs) and agriculture specialists (CBPAS) are multi-disciplined and perform the full range of inspection, intelligence analysis, examination, and law enforcement activities relating to the arrival and departure of persons, conveyances, and merchandise at air, land, and sea POEs.

EO 13767 directs executive departments and agencies to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's Southern border, prevent further illegal immigration into the United States, and repatriate aliens with final orders of removal swiftly, consistently, and humanely. EO 13767 also establishes the foundation for securing our Southern border by directing the tools, resources, and policy goals for CBP's dedicated men and women who are responsible for preventing illegal immigration, drug smuggling, human trafficking, and acts of terrorism. In accordance with existing law, CBP has

[1]Sec. 5. "Implementing Uniform Screening and Vetting Standards for All Immigration Programs" per https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/06/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states

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already begun to take all appropriate steps to plan, design, and construct a physical wall, using the materials and technology that will most effectively achieve operational control of the Southern border.

The FY 2018 Budget provides $1.6 billion for 32 miles of new border wall system and 28 miles of new levee wall in Rio Grande Valley Sector, as well as 14 miles of secondary border wall system in San Diego Sector. Tactical infrastructure, including physical barriers, has long been a critical component of CBP's multi-layered and risk-based approach to securing our Southern border. It is undeniable that border barriers have enhanced – and will continue to enhance – CBP's operational capabilities by creating persistent impedance, and facilitating the deterrence and prevention of successful illegal entries. CBP plans to deploy border wall system in a multi-phased approach that meets USBP's operational requirements, safeguards national security and public safety, and is the result of thorough analysis of threat, cost, and mission effectiveness.

The land along the border between the United States and Mexico is extremely diverse, consisting of desert landscape, mountainous terrain, and urban areas. Today we have several types of barriers, to include steel bollard and levee wall, along nearly one-third, or 654 miles, of the Southwest border.

CBP is prioritizing investments and geographic areas across the Southwest border, leveraging the USBP's annual, full spectrum requirements analysis process to identify needs related to domain awareness, impedance and denial, access and mobility, and mission readiness. Throughout the planning, designing, and construction process, CBP will complete project, budget, real estate, and environmental planning to ensure available resource capacity. CBP will leverage expertise in federal acquisition to maximize transparency and accountability and to ensure the most effective and efficient solutions are deployed to meet requirements, in accordance with the established DHS acquisition framework and acquisition review board oversight.

CBP is seeking to build on the successes of and lessons learned from the installation and operation of existing barriers to deploy a system that addresses dynamic cross-border threats. CBP is working with industry and partnering with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to potentially incorporate additional alternative barrier designs that may include a concrete base or other innovative solutions into our border barrier toolkit. Border barrier and levee wall systems are comprehensive solutions that include a concentrated combination of various types of infrastructure such as wall, fence, all-weather roads, lighting, enforcement cameras, and other related technology. The strategic deployment of these capabilities along the border will provide USBP's frontline agents with the tools they need to deter and prevent successful illegal entries.

CBP is committed to ensuring that all stakeholder communities, to include Congress, federal partners, state, local, and tribal officials, and the impacted communities, are informed throughout this process.

Response to Migrant Surges

Thanks to this Subcommittee's support, the Nation's long-term investment in border security has produced significant and positive results. With the support and direction of President Trump and Secretary Kelly, we are already seeing an unprecedented improvement in the posture of our

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Southwest border. Since January 2017, the number of illegal aliens we have apprehended on the Southwest border has drastically decreased, indicating a significant decrease in the number of aliens attempting to illegally enter the country. The number of illegal aliens apprehended in April 2017 was more than 60 percent lower than January apprehensions and close to 70 percent lower than the same time last year.[2]

During FY 2016, over 415,816 illegal aliens from Central America and Mexico – including over 137,614 unaccompanied alien children (UAC) and alien families – were apprehended along our Southwest border. While more than 16,000 family units were apprehended at the border in December of 2016, only 1,119 family units were apprehended in April of 2017.[3]

Although the numbers have recently declined, UAC and other immigrant flows are difficult to predict and another surge is always a possibility. The simple fact is that now is the time to make further, substantial improvements to our southwest border security, as these could be fleeting improvements if the perception of our southern border security returns to what it was before January 2017. We must remain prepared for apprehension numbers to climb again as quickly as they have fallen.

Investments in Mobile Tactical Equipment

CBP's border security mission regularly requires BPAs and CBPOs to operate in diverse and remote locations where tactical communication, transportation, and surveillance capabilities are essential to coordinating mission activities and protecting the safety of CBP law enforcement personnel. For agents and officers operating in remote areas, their radios are often their only means of communication to coordinate activities or request assistance. For USBP, radios are the single most essential piece of equipment for frontline agents – a BPA may not deploy to the field without a functioning radio.

CBP operates and maintains a tactical radio inventory of more than 70,000 units, utilized by CBP's frontline law enforcement personnel. More than 25,000 units of CBP's radio inventory have exceeded their useful life and are no longer supported by the manufacturer. The FY 2018 Budget seeks $29.3 million to purchase the equipment for USBP and AMO Tactical Air Land and Marine Enterprise Communications (TALMEC), including the acquisition of modern and secure radio and satellite communication technology that will provide communication reliability and security for CBP frontline law enforcement and flexibility for agents and officers to communicate with state and local law enforcement agencies as well as Mexican authorities.

The FY 2018 Budget includes $60.3 million to provide for the acquisition of vehicles. CBP's vehicle lifecycle management process[4] is especially important as vehicles become older and less reliable, while mission demands continue. Reductions in vehicle performance and/or reliability may place an undue burden on law enforcement personnel executing mission requirements. These investments, to include recapitalizing aging radios and vehicles, will enable agents to respond to and resolve incidents and incursions more efficiently, effectively and safely.

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[2] Per https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration

[3] Per https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration

[4] The General Services Administration's recommended vehicle replacement standard is five years.

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Technology Investments between Ports of Entry

The FY 2018 Budget will also enable the continued deployment of proven, effective technology to strengthen border security operations between the ports – in the land, air, and maritime environments. With the deployment of fixed and mobile surveillance capabilities, CBP can gain situational awareness remotely, direct a response team to the best interdiction location, and warn them of any additional danger otherwise unknown along the way. Investment in this area will support CBP's efforts to implement the President's EOs on border security and to maintain operational control of the Southern border through improved situational awareness.

CBP's Tactical Aerostats and Re-locatable Towers Program, originally part of the Department of Defense (DOD) Re-use program, uses a mix of aerostats, towers, cameras, and radars to provide USBP with advanced surveillance capabilities over a wide area. This technology has proven to be a vital asset in increasing CBP's ability to detect, identify, classify, and track illegal activity. Furthermore, since initial deployment, these systems have been responsible for the detection of more than 180,000 illegal border incursions of aliens and smugglers, leading to the seizure of approximately 180 tons of narcotics and related contraband headed towards our Nation's cities and neighborhoods. As of April 2017, USBP agents, with the assistance of existing aerostats and re-locatable towers, have seized 62 tons of narcotics, and caught more than 20,000 illegal border crossers detected in aerostat locations during FY 2017. The FY 2018 Budget includes $34.8 million in FY 2018 for the Tactical Aerostats and Re-locatable Towers Program to fund continued operations and maintenance costs.

Another proven border security technology, Integrated Fixed Towers (IFT), assists BPAs in detecting, tracking, identifying, and classifying items of interest along our Nation's borders through a series of fixed surveillance towers and equipment that display information on workstations in command and control centers. CBP requires $22.4 million in FY 2018 for the IFT program for operations and maintenance. In addition, CBP proposes $17.4 million in FY 2018 for procurement, construction, and improvements towards the IFT program.

Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) are another fixed technology asset used in select areas along the Southwest and Northern borders. These systems provide short-, medium-, and long-range persistent surveillance mounted on stand-alone towers, or other structures. The RVSS uses cameras, radio, and transmitters to send video to a control room. This enables a control room operator to remotely detect, identify, classify and track targets using the video feed. The RVSS deployment planned as part of the Arizona Technology Plan is now complete, and CBP is presently working to expand the RVSS capability to other high-priority areas along the Southwest border. The FY 2018 Budget includes $20.0 million in FY 2018 to sustain RVSS. An additional $46.2 million is provided for procurement, construction, and improvements. This funding will be used to support the deployment of the RVSS capability to the Rio Grande Valley Sector.

Mobile Video Surveillance Systems (MVSS) consist of short- and medium-range mobile surveillance equipment that is mounted on USBP vehicles. An agent deploys with the system, which helps agents detect, track, identify, and classify items of interest using the MVSS video feed. The agent observes activity on the video monitors to detect intrusions and assist other agents in responding to those intrusions. The FY 2018 Budget includes $3.2 million to provide operation

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and sustainment for MVSS, and an additional $1.6 million for procurement, construction, and improvements to fulfill operational needs on the Southern and Northern borders.

As we continue to deploy border surveillance technology and other operational assets, particularly along the Southwest border, the Subcommittee's support of these investments allows CBP the flexibility to shift more frontline personnel from detection duties to interdiction of illegal activities on our borders. The FY 2018 budget supports CBP's border security mission by increasing and enhancing border security technology including mobile assets, air and marine capabilities, and initiatives to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Securing and Expediting Trade and Travel

At our Nation's 328 land, air, and sea POEs, CBP prevents dangerous people and contraband from entering the United States, while facilitating the lawful flow of international trade and travel by using a combination of personnel, technology, intelligence, risk information, targeting, and international cooperation. CBP extends the U.S. zone of security beyond our physical borders through bilateral cooperation with other nations, private-sector partnerships, expanded targeting, and advance scrutiny of information on people and goods seeking to enter this country.

CBP's travel and trade security operations use a risk-based approach, applying rigorous information analysis and targeting to identify the greatest threats and risks. CBP proposes an increase of $54.9 million in FY 2018 for improved intelligence and targeting capabilities, including an increase of $14.5 million to expand staffing at CBP's National Targeting Center (NTC). This increase will also enhance NTC analytical modeling capabilities and provide for additional equipment. The NTC operates 24 hours a day with the mission of collaborating with federal, state, local, and international partners to effectively identify, target, screen, and interdict inbound and outbound passengers and cargo across all international modes of transportation that pose a threat to national security, public safety, agriculture, lawful trade, and safe travel. Effective targeting and interdiction prevents inadmissible high-risk passengers, cargo, and agriculture / bioterrorism threats from reaching U.S. POEs, thereby extending our border security initiatives outward and making our borders the last line of defense rather than the first line of defense.

The FY 2018 Budget continues substantial investment in Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology that enables CBP to detect materials that pose significant nuclear and radiological threat. Utilizing Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs), as well as Radiation Isotope Identification Devices, and Personal Radiation Detectors, which are deployed nationwide at our POEs, CBP is able to scan 100 percent of all mail and express consignment mail and parcels; 100 percent of all truck cargo and personally owned vehicles arriving from Canada and Mexico; and nearly 100 percent of all arriving maritime containerized cargo for the presence of radiological or nuclear materials.

Using NII imaging equipment, CBPOs can also examine cargo conveyances such as sea containers, commercial trucks, and rail cars, as well as privately owned vehicles, for the presence of contraband without physically opening or unloading them. NII technologies – both radiological detection and imaging – are force multipliers that enable CBP to screen or examine a larger portion of the stream of commercial traffic while facilitating the flow of legitimate trade, cargo, and passengers.

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In FY 2016, CBP utilized more than 300 large-scale (LS) NII systems to image approximately 6.5 million cargo or conveyances across CBP's 328 land, sea, and air POEs, resulting in CBPOs seizing more than 355,000 pounds of narcotics and more than $3.9 million in U.S. currency. More than 8,000 additional officers at a labor cost of approximately $1 billion would have been required if physical examinations were conducted. The Budget proposes $109.2 million to build upon prior year investments and will be used to recapitalize the current small-scale (SS) and LS NII technology fleet. This funding will allow CBP to remain on track to ensure the NII fleet is operating within its service life by FY 2024, and will help CBP continue to use NII to safely, quickly, and effectively detect a wide range of contraband imported using a variety of conveyances, thereby facilitating lawful trade and travel.

As mentioned above, another key role played by CBP in securing our borders is the interdiction of narcotics. In FY 2016, CBPOs and BPAs seized and/or disrupted more than 3.3 million pounds of narcotics across the country[5] including approximately 46,000 pounds of methamphetamine and 4,800 pounds of heroin. CBP heroin seizures by weight rose 43 percent from approximately 4,217 pounds in FY 2012 to approximately 5,981 pounds in FY 2015. The majority of heroin seizures occur at the Southwest border: 82 percent of all CBP heroin seizures between FYs 2012-2016. CBP seizures of fentanyl remain relatively small compared to heroin, but have significantly increased over the past three years, from approximately two pounds seized in FY 2013 to approximately 440 pounds seized in FY 2016. Fentanyl is the most frequently seized illicit synthetic opioid, but CBP has also encountered various types of fentanyl analogues.[6]

CBP seizures of cocaine have remained steady between FYs 2012-2016 averaging approximately 200,000 pounds of cocaine seized each fiscal year. By funding the right mix of people, technology, and infrastructure, the FY 2018 Budget will help CBP continue to work to secure our borders and keep illegal narcotics out of the hands of the American people.

CBP also has the responsibility to enhance the Nation's economic competitiveness and security by efficiently and effectively processing goods and people across our borders. This is crucial to promoting job growth and helping the private sector remain globally competitive today and in the future. The FY 2018 Budget includes $263.3 million for OT to support CBP's implementation of TFTEA; implement the President's EO 13785, *Establishing Enhanced Collection and Enforcement of Antidumping and Countervailing Duties and Violations of Trade and Customs Laws*; and meet other needs to fulfill our trade mission outlined below.

CBP proposes an increase of $29.8 million to support 140 new positions to provide for new services mandated by TFTEA, which was enacted on February 24, 2016. The law specifies new trade facilitation and enforcement operational requirements, organizational changes, and new authorities and services. One of the most impactful pieces of trade legislation for CBP in more than a generation, TFTEA includes substantial changes to trade enforcement, particularly in the area of Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties; establishing processes for investigating claims

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[5] FY 2016 Border Security Report, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2016-Dec/CBP-fy2016-border-security-report.pdf

[6] These include: acetylfentanyl, butyrylfentanyl, beta-hydroxythiofentanyl, para-fluorobutyrylfentanyl, pentanoylfentanyl, alpha-methyl acetylfentanyl, para-fluoroisobutyrylfentanyl, para-fluorofentanyl, carfentanil, furanylfentanyl, and most recently benzodioxolefentanyl, acrylfentanyl, and methoxyacetylfentanyl.

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of evasion of anti-dumping orders; using donations of technology from the private sector for enforcing intellectual property rights; and simplifying drawback processing to spur domestic manufacturing and exports.

Another substantial mandate within TFTEA is the Enforce and Protect Act (EAPA), which allows a party to submit an allegation of dumping circumvention to CBP, and grants CBP new authorities to make adverse decisions against an importer based on the lack of response or an incomplete response to an inquiry. CBP is mandated to initiate and pursue EAPA allegations within certain timeframes, and demand for these services is growing despite the lack of necessary staffing. There are many other substantial mandates which CBP must implement. These 140 new positions will enable OT to fully address TFTEA mandates in both a timely manner and without impacting the core mission and operations of CBP's trade mission.

Also with the strong support of this Subcommittee, CBP is completing the development of core trade processing capabilities in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). ACE is the "Single Window" through which all import and export data are reported by industry to more than 47 partner government agencies, eliminating more than 200 different forms and streamlining trade processes. In FY 2018 ACE will transition from development to sustainment. To facilitate this transition CBP proposes an increase of $45.1 million in FY 2018 for ACE Core Functionality. This includes $9.1 million for software sustainment; $12.2 million to provide ACE disaster recovery to ensure continuity of operations through the use of a robust "cloud solution"; $11.3 million to decommission code currently on legacy ACE; and $12.5 million to International Business Machines (IBM) SRO, which provides infrastructure, software, and management support critical to the continued operation and maintenance of the ACE system.

CBP recognizes how critical our trade enforcement and facilitation role is in protecting our Nation's economic security. We are working to ensure a fair and competitive trade environment where the benefits of trade compliance exceed the costly consequences of violating U.S. trade law. In FY 2016, we supported domestic producers of products ranging from steel plates to solar panels to crawfish by collecting $1.5 billion in cash deposits to secure anti-dumping duties on $14 billion of imported goods. We continually seek to develop and implement ways to improve our business processes and strengthen our engagement with our international and private-sector partners. To this end, CBP proposes $2.3 million in FY 2018 to expand trade transformation initiatives, including professional development initiatives and enhancing trade enforcement programs. Sharpening Trade Expertise is an enterprise-wide professional development initiative dedicated to strengthening the expertise of all employees engaged in the trade mission. Through targeted development and training programs, Sharpening Trade Expertise provides CBP trade staff with the support, engagement, and preparation needed for an ever-changing trade environment future.

Integrated Operations

We have been a key participant in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Unity of Effort initiative, which aims to change the way DHS makes decisions within the Department and conducts operations. As part of this initiative, CBP is the lead component for DHS Joint Task Force-West (JTF-W), and a participating component in JTF-East, led by the U.S. Coast Guard and JTF-Investigations, led by U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The JTFs, launched as a pilot by DHS in early 2015, are strategically guided by the Southern Border and

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Approaches Campaign Plan, which enhances the Department's operational approach to addressing comprehensive threat environments in a unified, integrated way. The FY 2018 Budget also realigns funding for 32 positions and $6.2 million to JTF-W to better address the threats posed by Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) to the safety and security of the United States. This funding will help ensure these unique collaborative efforts have the resources they need.

CBP has also been an active participant in the Joint Requirements Council. The Council consists of senior leaders from DHS components, and is organized in order to identify and recommend investments to maximize efficiency and enhance mission capabilities.

CBP's commitment to risk-based, intelligence-driven operations enables us to focus resources on a wide array of diverse threats ranging from networks of terrorism and transnational crime to individuals attempting illegal entry; from the illicit movement of weapons to the introduction of agricultural pests and diseases; from trafficking in drugs, weapons, and people to the transit of prohibited, restricted, and unsafe goods. CBP's application of risk management principles has enabled sound, timely operational planning and focused tactical execution against these diverse threats. CBP will continue to evolve our integrated risk management approach to remain agile and adaptable in supporting operational priorities.

The FY 2018 Budget supports an increase of $3.1 million to fill 40 positions with the expertise needed to expand CBP's Office of Intelligence's (OI) mission critical operational capabilities and to align priorities with CBP's intelligence enterprise. The additional positions will augment the existing staff to support OI's ability to provide products on current threats, initiatives, and intelligence. Additionally, this support would enable CBP to develop agency-wide depth of knowledge aligned with Intelligence Community functions, including Counter-Intelligence, Confidential Human Source, Security, and Training.

The FY 2018 Budget provides $1.4 million for OI's training division, $900,000 for salaries and benefits and $500,000 to fund Interagency Agreements and contractor support for delivery of content in various intelligence disciplines as well as travel associated with classes scheduled at field locations and at the Intelligence and Targeting Center of Excellence (ITCE) at the CBP Advanced Training Center in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The funding will support the maintenance of a self-sustaining and cost effective curriculum design and instruction team that will be able to meet the intelligence training requirements of the CBP workforce from all operational component offices in an effective and timely manner.

The FY 2018 Budget also calls for investments in air and marine capabilities to help AMO meet flight hour goals and readiness rates. CBP's comprehensive border security operations include the use of coordinated and integrated air and marine capabilities to detect, interdict, and prevent acts of terrorism and the unlawful movement of people, illegal drugs, and other contraband toward or across the borders of the United States. During FY 2016, CBP's Air and Marine Operations contributed to 4,303 arrests and the apprehension of 55,923 individuals, as well as the interdiction of 221,707 pounds of cocaine in the transit zone. AMO increases CBP's situational awareness, enhances our detection and interdiction capabilities, and extends our border security zones, offering greater capacity to stop threats prior to reaching the Nation's borders. These assets provide multi-domain awareness for our partners across DHS, as well as critical aerial and maritime surveillance, interdiction, and operational assistance to our ground personnel.

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CBP's layered approach to border security relies on a variety of resources, including fixed wing, rotary, and unmanned aircraft systems in the air domain, and patrol and interdiction vessels in the maritime environment. These assets provide critical aerial and maritime surveillance, interdiction, and operational assistance to our ground personnel and multi-domain awareness for DHS.

The FY 2018 Budget seeks an increase of $23.2 million to fund the initial hiring of 94 additional AMO personnel, to include 61 Air Interdiction Agents and 33 support personnel. This request will support implementation of the President's EOs on border security and the Secretary's subsequent February 20, 2017 memo, "Implementing the President's Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvement Policies." This increase is required to facilitate the increased operational tempo required to gain operational control of the Southern border. The positions are required to directly support the increased USBP and ICE agents provided in the Budget.

The FY 2018 Budget also seeks significant investments in our aircraft fleet. For example, the Budget includes $55.5 million in FY 2018 to purchase two KA-350CER multirole enforcement aircraft (MEA). The MEA is the optimal sensor-equipped aircraft for surveillance operations in regions such as the Southern border, Northern border, and maritime environments where terrain, weather and distance pose significant obstacles to border security operations. The MEA further serve as a force multiplier for law enforcement and emergency response personnel, facilitating the rapid-response deployment of equipment, canines and people.

The Budget includes $14.1 million in FY 2018 to purchase one UH-60 Medium Lift Helicopter (MLH). UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters are critical to border security operations, being the only helicopters with medium lift capability (8 agents with full gear). The UH-60 are rugged enough to support interdiction and life-saving operations in very hostile environments, and at high altitudes in the dessert, over open water, and in extreme cold.

The FY 2018 Budget also includes $43.4 million to purchase Light Enforcement Helicopters (LEH) in FY 2018. The LEH is a multi-mission helicopter used for aerial surveillance; providing tactical support; the transport and insertion of frontline personnel responding to illegal border incursions; serving search and arrest warrants; and patrol of high risk areas. These aircraft will help CBP carry out the President's EOs on border security, and enhance the physical security of our Northern, Southern, and maritime borders by providing improved air surveillance and support capabilities to USBP and our law enforcement partners.

The FY 2018 Budget includes $18.1 million to fund the transition to AMO's new national maintenance contracts and improve the availability of critical aircraft systems and engines and flight hour increases associated with operation of new and upgraded aircraft. This includes $4.2 million to transition from the current national maintenance contract to a follow-on contract; $7.1 million to address safety, parts, and labor shortfalls; $5 million to increase maintenance for certain critical aircraft systems and engines; and $1.8 million for the operational tempo increases associated with newly delivered Medium Lift Helicopter and Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft.

The FY 2018 Budget also proposes an increase of $2.5 million for the Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SUAS) program. USBP requires a SUAS capability that can surveil locations between the POEs in remote, isolated, and inaccessible portions of the Nation's borders based on risk-

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based operational needs. The SUAS needs to provide ground reconnaissance, surveillance and tracking capabilities to support the USBP surveillance tasks of predicting, detecting, tracking, identifying and classifying suspected items of interest. The ability to persistently and discreetly surveil remote areas along portions of the border is critical to USBP's ability to secure the border.

Additionally, the FY 2018 Budget provides support for the Tethered Aerostat Radar System program. The $41.2 million requested will provide for the annual system operations, system upkeep, maintenance and supply of government personnel, and real property needs such as site and facility leases and expenses, for the full program. This funding will sustain the steady-state operations of the system while also retiring major threats from technical and program risks to system operations and health stemming from aging technology, diminishing manufacturing sources, and emerging regulatory requirements.

As physical barriers are erected, the various threats will inevitably adapt. Thus, the FY 2018 Budget also includes $8.9 million for the Cross Border Tunnel Threat (CBTT) program. The CBTT program will strengthen border security effectiveness between POEs by diminishing the ability of TCOs to gain access into the United States through cross-border tunnels and the illicit use of underground municipal infrastructure. The CBTT program will acquire technologies and services that will close capability gaps, reducing the ability of TCOs to smuggle drugs, money, and people across the border. The CBTT program will invest in system procurement, including testing and evaluation, IT security, and engineering change proposals. These systems will help CBP predict potential tunnel locations; detect the presence of suspected tunnels and tunneling activities as well as project the trajectory of a discovered tunnel; confirm a tunnel's existence and location through mapping and measurements; and facilitate secure information sharing across all stakeholders.

Mission Support

The FY 2018 Budget funds an increase of $100 million to begin hiring the 5,000 additional BPAs mandated by EO 13767 and supports the hiring of an additional 500 agents from current staffing levels. This initial hiring surge develops the foundation to increase operational control in certain key areas along the border.

The Budget also includes an increase of $17.5 million to support efforts to continue and expand process improvements and add capacity to frontline hiring by focusing on efforts to attract qualified candidates and expedite their progress through the CBP hiring process. These improvements include $2.2 million for recruiting and marketing strategies, $8.0 million for our Hiring Transformation / Hubs program, and $7.3 million for additional applicant processing. This funding supports the hiring activities that meet the objectives and intent of the EOs on border security, and is based on a multiyear hiring plan.

In pursuit of our hiring goals, CBP recruiters will participate in thousands of recruiting events, seeking to reach a diverse spectrum of applicants. We have developed a significant expertise identifying events and communications strategies that support implementation of our recruitment and marketing strategy. Recruitment at events for veterans and transitioning military personnel is a top priority. CBP will further refine data analysis techniques to identify and quantify the best

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opportunities for recruitment success, and continue to leverage online hiring services as a low-cost means of identifying and reaching a wider pool of qualified applicants.

CBP's new frontline hiring process has led to significant reductions in the average time-to-hire- from 469 days in January 2016 to March 2017's average time-to-hire of fewer than 300 days. Indeed, many successful applicants are now able to move through the hiring process in approximately 160 days. Funding will provide the increase in contract services, and technology needed to continue this transformational effort and expand the new process across the entire frontline position applicant pool. As of April 2017 HRM is now processing all applicants through an expedited hiring model. We have made significant progress in reducing the time to hire.

CBP is also actively working to minimize attrition and fill positions in less desirable locations. The FY 2018 Budget includes $30 million to support operational mobility, developmental assignments, and leadership relocations. Implementing a stable relocation program for the CBP workforce will help meet operational requirements and help to alleviate the lack of mobility significantly contributing to increased attrition across the workforce. CBP is thankful for the continued dedication of Members of Congress to working collaboratively with CBP to come up with solutions to this complicated challenge.

Congress has directed the Department to evaluate ways to improve the statutorily required polygraph program to improve the efficiency of the hiring process. Per the Congressional directive from the Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act concerning the alternative polygraph trial, CBP has also established a six-month pilot program that will allow the agency to establish a sample of applicant testing that can be measured against comparable data points from the previous test. This pilot was developed in collaboration with the National Center for Credibility Assessment which governs all federal polygraph programs.

Before making any determination to either continue with the piloted test or return to the previous test, CBP will carefully evaluate these metrics and measures to ensure CBP maintains its high standard of integrity for future applicants, and report to Congress per the directive. While the exam is a change in format, it retains all of the critical test topics of the previous exam and maintains CBP's commitment to high integrity standards for its personnel. CBP and the Department support the "Anti-Border Corruption Reauthorization Act of 2017," which was ordered reported as S. 595 by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on May 17, 2017, and reported as H.R. 2213 by the House Homeland Security Committee on May 16, 2017. We thank the Members of Congress for your continued support as we seek to hire the men and women who will fulfill CBP's complex and crucial mission in the months and years to come.

Legislative Proposals

Finally, the FY 2018 Budget highlights some of the legislative priorities we hope to achieve with the help of Congress. For example, the Administration will submit legislative language to the relevant authorizing committees to enact the proposal to eliminate Brand USA and redirect the $10 Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) surcharges to CBP for passenger processing expenses. CBP has also submitted a legislative proposal to create an $8 Electronic Visa Update

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System (EVUS) user fee based on a fee analysis that would function similarly to the ESTA operational processing fee. Once the authorizing proposal is enacted, CBP will no longer require appropriated funding to support the EVUS program.

CBP will also provide a legislative proposal to decrease the shortfall between the costs of CBP's immigration inspection activities and the collections received. Per the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), passenger inspection fee collections fund customs inspection activities that are mandated by law. The fee levels set in current law do not fully cover CBP's costs. CBP's funding strategies also include seeking Congressional support for a legislative proposal to increase current Immigration Inspection User Fees to recover more of the costs associated with providing immigration inspection services.

Conclusion

In closing, the challenges facing CBP and our Nation are considerable, but we have outstanding men and women working at CBP who are committed to protecting our Homeland and the American people. The FY 2018 President's Budget recognizes the serious and evolving threats and dangers our Nation faces each day. With the support of Congress, CBP continues to secure our Nation's borders, and promote international commerce and tourism, through a multi-layered approach using a variety of tools.

We want to thank the Members of this Subcommittee for your continued strong support of CBP. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. We look forward to your questions.

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